Hafa Adai!

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IN INSTALLING ROTA GENERATOR

24-day delay seen

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The installation of a 1.8-megawatt generator worth $690,000 for the electric power emergency on Rota will be delayed for 24 days from the original contract.

In line with this, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. contracting specialist John Mafnas disclosed last week that they are going to modify the contract to extend the project's completion time.

With the 24-day delay, it will take the contractor 60 days to complete the whole project.

The CUC board of directors had already re-affirmed the electric power emergency declaration on Rota and approved the selection of

See DELAY on Page 4

Trump's budget proposes cuts to NMI housing programs

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

U.S President Donald Trump's proposed budget for fiscal year 2020 recommends a 6-percent cut to the CNMI's housing programs, amounting to about $2 million.

Trump's budget plan, called "A Budget for a Better America," pro-

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Hopwood student's Easter egg design at WH

By BEA CABRERA
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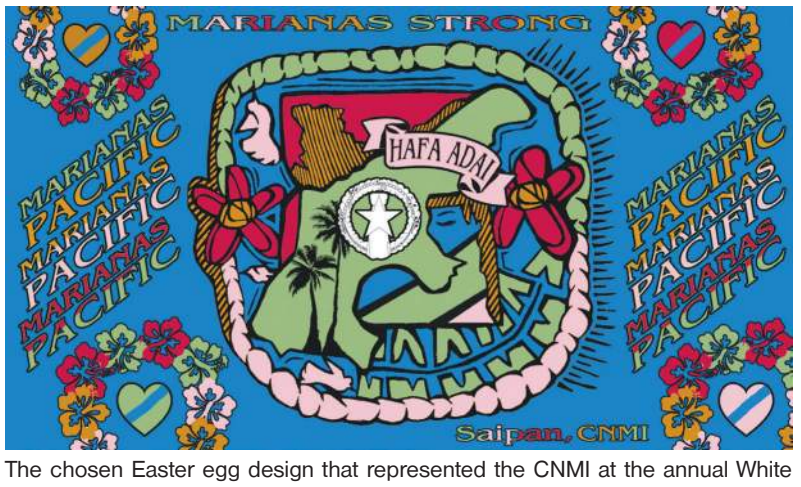
CORRESPONDENT

An Easter egg design, created by Jeroen Montenejo, a 7th grader from Hopwood Middle School, was one of the many egg designs featured this year at the annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House.

Montenejo's design layered a latte stone behind an image of Saipan, with birds on the left side, plumeria flowers on the side, and *mwars mwars* around it, plus an image of a girl that is symbolic of Mother Nature and a

See HOPWOOD on Page 4

Hopwood student Jeroen Montenejo's completes his Easter egg design for the annual White House Easter Egg Roll event held every Easter Monday at the White House in Washington, D.C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The chosen Easter egg design that represented the CNMI at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll at the White House in Washington, D.C.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'When you lose everything, the little things mean a lot'

The current "house" of Enrico San Jose, six months after Super Typhoon Yutu.
REICA RAMIREZ

By REICA RAMIREZ
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CORRESPONDENT

Enrico San Jose, who has lived in his house for more than 12 years, still considers himself lucky.

"Everything happened so fast. My three grandkids were with me and all I could think of was to keep them safe. Suddenly, the roof flew away, the ceiling came down, and all the windows were shattered," he said.

With no roof over their heads since Super Typhoon Yutu leveled Saipan

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INSIDE

NATION
A 19-year-old gunman opened fire inside a synagogue, killing one and wounding three others.
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ASIA
Militants linked to Easter suicide bombings opened fire and set off explosives during a raid.
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LIFE & STYLE
"Avengers: Endgame" is crushing the competition by setting multiple records at the box office.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

‘Working at DFS has been the best decision I’ve ever made’

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marian Aldan-Pierce, the president of DFS Saipan Limited Division, is celebrating 43 years with DFS Saipan this month.

Marian Aldan-Pierce has that rare trait of being instinctively trusted. That unique capacity has served her in good stead. This month, Aldan-Pierce is celebrating 43 years with DFS Saipan.

That length of time with the company makes her grateful. “…I will be forever be saying that I have been blessed by the people I worked with all these years. My bosses have been wonderful mentors, all of whom have been supportive of me since I started,” she said.

Now president of DFS Saipan Limited Division, her remarkable journey working in the retail business since 1976 has honed her management and business skills in many ways she never thought possible. That included being the very first employee of DFS Saipan, even before its store in Garapan opened.

“I was employed by the government when I heard about a new company interviewing for several positions to open a store. It was Duty Free Shoppers Limited, a company I was not familiar with. So I decided to try my luck as I was not happy in my job at the time,” she said.

Thankfully for Aldan-Pierce, people trusted her, even from the start.

“I’ve been here since before we had stores. I was hired to be the executive secretary for the Saipan branch manager and, by Day 2, I was actually interviewing for sales associates. …I had no idea what I was getting myself into but my two bosses at the time seemed to have a lot of confidence in me and I appreciated that…” she added.

During the Trust Territory transition, Aldan-Pierce had an opportunity to work at the Office of Transition Studies and Planning.

“I actually resigned at DFS. …This would have been about a month after I had been with DFS and our general manager at the time did not want to lose me so he asked our president, who was in Guam, to fly to Saipan and talk to me, which he did.”

“It was explained that I was already in a position of trust and our general manager really did not want to lose me. After a while, he offered me an increase in salary…[and] I relented and decided to stay. Needless to say, it was the best decision I’ve ever made. …It was knowing that I was appreciated that got me,” she added.

According to Aldan-Pierce, 43 years did not go by silently because there was never a slow day at DFS.

“It was my first job in a retail company so the back-of-house activities were new to me,” she said.

At the same time, there was constant training on so many subjects—from language to product knowledge to grooming to customer service and so much more. “It was very enlightening,” she said.

“…We met people from all over the world constantly: brand representatives, merchants, IT folks, corporate folks and many others… DFS is ever-changing and constantly evolving. No two days are the same,” she added.

The ’70s and ‘80s were a transformative time for women and work and Aldan-Pierce was up to the challenge. “The great thing about DFS then and now is that your gender does not play a part in what you are or what you could be. Once you have shown that you can do a job and have the passion for it, you could be whatever you want to be,” Aldan-Pierce said.

“… One of our corporate goals in deference to all the women at DFS is to have a 50-50 split in our management levels and I am happy to say that, [on] Saipan, we have met that goal.

She assured that employee benefits at DFS are second to none.

“Since we opened in 1976, all our employees receive benefits that were and are given only to management in other companies. This includes retirement plan, insurance (life, medical/dental, accidental, educational assistance, vacation, sick leave, discounts, appropriate skills training for your job, and so many more,” she added.

As president of the company, Aldan-Pierce is expected to trumpet the benefits of being a DFS employee but she pointed out that it’s not only about taking care of executives but also the rank-and-file.

“No other company did as much for its employees as DFS did,” she said.

That was evident when the CNMI was hit by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and with Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

“The company cares for us all the time and they go beyond any expectations. …The cash outlay, our own laundromat, daily drinking water, hot showers, they brought in $25,000 worth of heavy-duty tarps for our employees so they could cover their roofless homes, and our time-for-sharing policy (usually for serious illness) was changed to allow for natural disasters,” she said.

Aldan-Pierce said she is always inspired by how she sees her company. “DFS is a company with a heart as it cares about its human resources and about the community it does business in. When we take on a project or get involved in a cause, it always has been because, whatever it may be at that moment, it will positively impact our community as a whole” she said.

Her advice to newcomers? “Never let it be about the money. Let it be about the people you have to work with. Ask the question: Do you feel empowered, respected, trusted, appreciated? Appropriate compensation and accolades will fall in place sooner rather than later.”

Her plans for the future includes retirement—”it is just a matter of when. I still love my job and enjoy going to work every day.”

In the meantime, her job allows her to engage is one of her many passions—recreational biking. “I will be on my way to Holland in late May to do my third tour with a company out of New York—all fun-loving, professional women ages ranging from 30s and 70s.”

IPI belies report it's behind in its BGRT payments

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC belied reports that it's behind in its tax payments, in the wake of a Department of Finance statement that casino gross revenue tax collected amounted to only $41,000 since the start of the fiscal year.

"Since we have been here, we have been paying our taxes. We have paid about $155 million of [business gross revenue tax] in cash. When you see our receivables, VIPs come and they are not paying us back, the island still got $155 million of tax in cash," said IPI CEO and president Mark Brown in an interview following Thursday's Commonwealth Casino Commission board meeting at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

At the House Ways and Means Committee meeting last Wednesday, CNMI Finance officials led by Ryan Camacho disclosed that IPI so far has only remitted $41,000 in BGRT from October 2018 to April 23, 2019. That's a far cry from the BGRT payments of $40.9 million in 2016, $67.7 million in 2017, and $43.6 million in 2018.

"In the couple of months that people are saying that we are behind, we are actually meeting with our accountants and looking into 'credits' that we have coming to us. … What does that mean? Do we or don't we have credits coming? Once we have the answers to that, which we will be getting by this week, then we will go back to continue to pay what's due," Brown said.

Unfortunately, businesses have slowed down for the whole island and not just the casino, he added.

"We used to pay BGRT in the amount of $10 million, $15 million, $8 million but, obviously, businesses have slowed down. We will get back up to that number again one day," he said.

"As everyone else understands, many businesses had problems on staffing, some businesses closed [but] we didn't," he added. "…We are still struggling along. We are losing money every month but that's the reality. …The credits we still feel that are coming to us on those monthly recent BGRT moneys, our accountants and chief financial officer are trying to find out and, again, once we get the answer, we will go back and update the money for the previous months," he added.

Brown reiterated that IPI knows the importance of fulfilling their responsibilities to the CNMI government and people. "We are here to pay our taxes. We are here to help. I know that the government is working very hard to help all the businesses on island and the Commonwealth Casino Commission is very supportive," he said.

"Whether you love us or hate us, we are a huge part of this island. So, if we are successful, then the entire island is successful—not just the government with taxes but everybody's businesses. Restaurants and bars will flourish because we will just keep bringing people here, as our plan is to be very successful for everyone," he added.

OPA releases elections report

The Office of the Public Auditor has presented its findings on the campaign statement of accounts filed for the 2016 and 2018 elections to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

The report details an itemized statement that indicated the cash or in-kind contributions received and expenses of a certain candidate or political party. Failure to meet the deadline carries a $100 per calendar day fee.

The report, which was released last Tuesday on April 23, was general and did not name any political party or particular candidate that either submitted late its CSA's or did not comply at all. The names of those who did not comply were forwarded to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

In a letter to CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez, Public Auditor Michael Pai said the report is about whether all the candidates and political parties complied with the campaign financial disclosure law. The OPA report was limited to the compliance of the filing requirement.

"Although the law does not mandate OPA to report its review of candidates' and political parties' compliance with campaign disclosure laws, OPA considers it necessary to report its findings to the general public and will continue to do so for future elections," wrote Pai.

The OPA report indicated that, in its review of the 2016 general election, one of the two recognized political parties that have fielded certified candidates have not filed its CSAs as of April 5 this year.

Two of the 67 candidates that ran for positions for CNMI delegate, senators, representatives, municipal council, and Board of Education positions have also not submitted their CSAs and were branded as non-filers.

Five other certified candidates were late with their filing.

OPA said the two recognized political parties for the 2018 general elections on Nov. 13 failed to beat the deadline. "A review of our record for the 2018 general elections indicate that the two recognized political parties filed their CSA reports after the deadline."

"And in the 2018 [general elections], of the 91 certified candidates, 13 candidates filed their CSA reports after the… deadline," said OPA.

The report added, "The law is unclear whether specific CSA provisions applicable to candidates are also applicable to political parties. Some of these provisions include penalties for late filing and referral of non-compliance to the OAG for prosecution."

The 2016 general elections was held on Nov. 8, 2016, with the CSA deadline set on Dec. 28 of the same year. An extension deadline was granted on Jan. 12, 2017, while the publication is within 10 days after the filing.

For the 2018 general elections last Nov. 13, which was delayed for a week due to Super Typhoon Yutu, the deadline for the filing of the CSA was on Jan. 2 while the extension was until Jan. 17 and another publication within 10 days after filing it. ***(Jon Perez)***

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McDonald's donates $6K to LibDay festivities

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

McDonald's CNMI and Guam donated $6,000 last week to the Liberation Day Festivities committee that has started its preparation process.

According to Shayne Villanueva, Liberation Day Festivities committee vice chair, the committee has started their solicitations and McDonald's was their first donor.

"The donation is going toward the Liberation Day festivities that will be happening from June 27 to July 6," he said.

Villanueva added that, on behalf of the committee, he is thankful for McDonald's' continuous support.

"We always appreciate their support to the local community. We appreciate their support for the Liberation Day festivities. Their help is huge. This event is a community event and we are trying to acquire support from everybody so that we can throw the best community event that we can," he said.

McDonald's CNMI general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr. credits their business success to the community and they are happy to give back.

"My parents always remind me and my sisters that it's the community that makes us successful so we try as much as possible to give back to the community. Liberation is just one of the ways," he said.

Villanueva said the committee has also opened up the application process for the Liberation Day Royal Court.

"They can pick up the applications at the [Saipan] Mayor's Office. Right now, it's already open for application. So, any young woman over the age of 14 can apply," he said.

The community can expect changes in this year's 73rd Annual Liberation Day Festival.

"We'll have a very organized parade. We'll have a good firework show. We're going to try and bring in some more games and some more family activities and entertainment. Hopefully, we can bring in a headliner of some sort. Hopefully, we can avoid bad weather because it's been quite often that we've had that. We're looking at some other options to bring in some entertainment," he said.

The festival will also feature veterans who fought in the Battle of Saipan to commemorate the battle's 75th anniversary.

"This year is large also because we're celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan, which is June 15, and we will be helping out with that. We are working with Burke Waldron. He has started a gofundme [account] to come out here, and we will be celebrating his presence, along with the presence of some others that we are…working on getting to fly over," he said.

Liberation Day festivities committee members pose for a photo with McDonald's Garapan staff following a donation.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

DELAY

From Page 1

the International Bridge and Construction Marianas Inc. to procure, deliver, and install the generator.

Mafnas said a CUC crew said that there is a need to modify the setup as originally planned because of the concrete slab or foundation.

"Because it's [location in] a low-lying area where it is prone to…water ponding…they need to raise it up and make sure it is safe and good," he said.

He said the contractor needs time to cure the cement for the foundation before they could install the engine there. "That would be the best way of mitigating that hazard," he said, adding that the contractor said they could do the modification within 24 days.

Mafnas emphasized that the modification will not result in added cost to CUC because its crew identified the issue on time.

He said the engine will be arriving on Rota by the second week of May.

Last Jan. 25, CUC's board of directors approved the emergency and procurement method.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho then requested the board's reaffirmation of the emergency declaration and the approval of the selection of IBCM to supply the generator. The CUC board subsequently approved Camacho's request.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) questioned the CUC selection committee's decision to choose IBCM, saying it was connected to a similar deal with CUC that raised a lot of red flags about two years ago.

Camacho said there exists a threat to public health, safety, or welfare on Rota by not having a tested baseload power generation unit that is capable of sustaining peak power production of 1.8 megawatts.

Camacho said CUC's power generation experts unanimously determined that available power sources should be considered only as temporary solutions because the availability of Rota Resort's power supply is not guaranteed, nor they can assure its operational condition because it is a private system outside of CUC's control.

He said CUC's Source Selection Committee, with guidance from the Office of the Attorney General, has accepted IBCM's quotation as the best solution to resolve this emergency.

TRUMP

From Page 1

poses more than $10 billion in cuts for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, from which the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. get its money to carry out projects such as the Section 8 voucher program, the Community Development Block Grant program, and others.

According to Jake Lanza, Affordable Housing Online resources manager, the CNMI is at risk of losing 6 percent of its vouchers through the Housing Choice voucher program and the total shutdown of its HOME and Community Development Block Grant programs.

"If the budget cut is implemented it is going to impact the entire nation. The best way to prepare is to reach out to someone in [the U.S.] Congress…and have them reject the [Trump] budget or [for the federal government] to make up for the loss [in] funding," he said in a statement on the Affordable Housing Online website.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from NMHC about the issue but, according to NMHC office manager Jacob Muña, NMHC has not heard about any drastic budget cuts yet.

Lanza said the proposed budget, if passed by U.S. Congress, would result in the complete elimination in HUD's Community Development Block Grant, Public Housing Capital Fund, and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program nationwide.

In addition to eliminating multiple housing programs, the Affordable Housing Online website calculates that the White House fiscal year 2020 budget represent a 22.26-percent reduction in funding for critical housing programs

"Some high-impact programs, like the Project-Based Rental Assistance program, do not see direct cuts but are only funded to sustain existing assistance without creating new housing opportunities. Additional policy recommendations include restructuring minimum rents and implementing work requirements that would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable tenants," the website stated.

Trump's budget explains that the cuts would ultimately promote tenant work and self-sufficiency and would eliminate programs that have failed to demonstrate effectiveness, among other things.

"To reduce the significant costs of these programs, the budget re-proposes MAHWA (Making Affordable Housing Work Act) and rent reforms that would require work able individuals shoulder more of their housing cost while providing an incentive to increase their earnings," it stated.

"The budget would eliminate CDBG, a program that has expended more than $150 billion since its inception in 1974 but has not demonstrated sufficient impact. CDBG's allocation formula…and many aspects of the program have become outdated. The budget devolves responsibility to state and local governments, which are better positioned to assess local community needs and address unique market challenges," the budget further stated.

HOPWOOD

From Page 1

heart "for the love we have for the CNMI." He said he and his brother, Jerico, chose blue as the background because it represents the CNMI flag. All that made to fit a single egg.

"The way I came up with this design was how Saipan really felt like as a community," he said.

Schools across the nation were invited to decorate an egg design representing their state or territory at the "White House Easter Egg Roll," which is an annual event held April 22 or every Easter Monday at the White House in Washington, D.C. for children ages 13 and below. Montenejo's egg design was chosen to represent the CNMI. President Donald J. Trump and first lady Melania Trump led this year's celebration.

Montenejo's design was supported by his teacher, Riya Nathrani, and the rest of his friends and other teachers at Hopwood.

The decorated eggs were displayed as guests entered the White House's South Lawn and Ellipse to illustrate the vast footprint of the Easter Egg Roll.

The Easter Egg Roll dates back to 1878 under the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes. The tradition was sustained by subsequent U.S. Presidents.

Hopwood Middle School was given the Easter Egg Roll design challenge in the CNMI because it is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics-centered school. The design was required to be emblematic of the state/territory and include state symbols such as the state flag, bird, and flower.

WHEN

From Page 1

and Tinian in October 2018, he and his family were able to avail of government assistance through the TETRIS program, or Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program

Six months later, they are still there.

It was, at first, difficult to adapt to the new environment. "It's hard and unfamiliar, but you just have to live with what you have," San Jose said.

That seems to be the prevailing outlook among those in temporary homes. Six months since Yutu devastated Saipan and Tinian, many people still live in broken homes and emergency tents. In San Jose's case, due to the extensive damage to their home, which remains unfixed, San Jose's family depend on tarps and one tent to survive.

When it gets too hot, his family stays in their damaged house. When it rains, they get many buckets for the leaks in the tarp.

"It really takes a lot of patience to get through the day, but I'm lucky that my family survived," he added.

There were also many people who were alone when the typhoon destroyed the islands. A widowed mother, who lived in her house for more than 17 years, almost didn't survive during the typhoon. She remembered her experience vividly. "The first thing I remember was my ceiling falling on top of me. Luckily, my door stopped it from collapsing, but I was stuck in a sitting position throughout the whole night. Everything around me started falling apart. I felt the roof being uprooted and the concrete walls moving. I thought it was the end for me. Because I was stuck, the next morning, no one knew I was inside all the debris. I had to climb my way through the debris until I reached my car."

The first few months after the typhoon, she was living inside her car. Then someone gave her a tent. Now she considers herself lucky because she has a tent to sleep in. She may have lost everything but she continues to live as normally as possible.

"I'm very thankful that I had friends who still helped me through the challenges. After the typhoon, all I had were the clothes on my back, my phone, and a bottle of water.

"When you lose everything, the little things mean the most. You can't take for granted what you have right now. It is a constant struggle, but at least I'm alive," she added.

That speaks a lot of the miracle that, despite the ferocious winds, there were almost no fatalities from Yutu. One wall in an abandoned building did fall down and killed one person, while another presumably died from carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator's exhaust, but many are citing the relative lack of fatalities from Yutu as reason enough to be grateful.

Chemical for cooking meth lands woman in hot water

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman was indicted in federal court last Friday for her alleged involvement in a conspiracy to make methamphetamine through the so-called shake-and-bake method.

Manglona

The indictment charged Joanne Marie Deleon Guerrero Castro with one count of conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to make methamphetamine.

Castro, through her court-appointed counsel Robert T. Torres, pleaded not guilty last Friday morning.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Castro's jury trial on July 2, 2019, at 10am.

Castro was released on an unsecured $100 bond. The judge okayed no location monitoring for Castro but only set some home detention requirements. Torres and assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe agreed to this.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 12, 2017 and Jan. 25, 2018, Castro conspired with others to possess pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

The indictment also contains a notice that upon conviction of the controlled substance offense, Castro shall forfeit to the U.S. government any property constituting proceeds that defendant obtained as the result of such offense.

Last Wednesday, Manglona imposed a sentence of three years and five months of imprisonment on David Muna Sablan, who entered a guilty plea for leaving two bags in Garapan that were found to contain chemicals and items used in making methamphetamine or "ice" through the "shake-and-bake" method.

Last March 15, Manglona slapped Vincent David Cabrera Jr. and Eugene Repeki Jr. each with a sentence of 15 years imprisonment. They pleaded guilty to allegations that they were involved in a clandestine crystal methamphetamine or "ice laboratory" using the so-called shake-and-bake method.

GMH gets another $2.3M in Medicare funding

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Another $2.3 million in rebase funding has been transmitted to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, adding to the more than $9 million the hospital has received in rebasing funds from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services since January 2019.

The $2.3 million GMHA just received is part of a rebase adjustment to the hospital's fiscal year 2017 Medicare Cost Report. The total rebase adjustment funding transmitted to GMHA since January is now $11 million.

"Our government has been striving for parity for decades while working with the bare minimum, resulting in the inability to pay down its debt. Nevertheless, our passionate nurses, doctors and professional staff at GMH never wavered in their commitment to provide the highest degree of healthcare to our patients," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "We are consistently restoring balance to our hospital and I am optimistic that this good working relationship with CMS will continue."

GMHA Administrator Lillian Perez-Posadas added: "The infusion of additional cash from Medicare rebasing is not just a win for GMH, but a win for the community we serve. Hospital care at GMH will always be delivered regardless of a patient's ability to pay, so we must continue to build upon this success in order to support and improve GMH's delivery of lifesaving services in a safe environment."

In January, CMS approved, for the first time since 1998, GMHA's request to rebase its rate for services to patients under Medicare, from a rate of $5,154 per hospital discharge to $9,511 per discharge, with the rate to increase annually based on a market basket index.

As a result, GMHA received $6.3 million on Feb. 7 for its FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016 Medicare Cost Reports. On April 12, GMHA received another $2.4 million for its FY 2018 Medicare Cost Report. The hospital expects upwards of $6 million additionally each year for payments on Medicare, Medicaid and MIP accounts.

In addition to an adjustment to its rebase rate, CMS also approved an increase to GMHA's per diem rate by 26 percent to $1,646 which became effective April 17. ***(PR)***

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CNMI 1 of 5 selected to develop strategies for public health emergency preparedness

The National Governors Association recently announced that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is among five states and territories selected to participate in the NGA Center for Best Practices' Public Health Preparedness and Response Workshop for State and Territorial Gubernatorial and Legislative Leadership.

The CNMI is the only territory to be selected, while Minnesota, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Washington have been selected as well for participation in a workshop that will develop strategic action plans to implement during public health emergencies.

Natural and human-caused public health disasters can overwhelm states' emergency response capabilities, which may result in widespread injury or loss of life. States not only have to plan and respond to diseases of national significance, such as Ebola and the Zika virus, but also confront other public health threats resulting from typhoons, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, water supply contamination and other hazards.

In early April, the CNMI Office of the Governor and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. jointly submitted the application to the National Governors Association in order to empower our public health system to develop a stronger response and recovery preparedness plan in the event of an emergency or disaster. This workshop supports only up to five states and territories through a competitive selection process.

The impact of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018 prompted CNMI leadership to take a proactive approach in responding to future disasters for the Marianas.

Super Typhoon Yutu has been categorized as the largest storm in United States history since 1935, bringing winds and gusts up to 200 miles per hour on the islands of Saipan and Tinian here in the CNMI. This caused major damage to homes and businesses, displacing many residents, and brought the economy to a standstill for about two months. Damage assessments found that 532 homes were destroyed and 430 homes suffered major damage. Moreover, the Commonwealth Health Center, the CNMI's only hospital, tended to about 133 people who were admitted to the hospital due to storm-related injuries, as well as providing medical assistance to the approximately 832 residents in shelters across the three islands.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed his appreciation to the National Governors Association for this selection and to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. for their partnership and leadership to develop a stronger policy framework for emergency response in the CNMI.

"Our goal is to strengthen intergovernmental coordination and implementation of activities in response to future disasters in the CNMI. Our primary objective through this technical assistance opportunity focuses on enhancing National Response Framework Emergency Support Functions related to mass care support and public health and medical services," Torres said.

"Given the CNMI's lack of temporary housing options due to the ongoing recovery, we believe it is a critical public need to offer our residents options for mass care to support management of arising health conditions during a disaster and to ensure our regulations and laws are responsive to the changing needs," he added.

"CHCC is grateful for the leadership and support from the Governor's Office and colleagues at Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Services as we partner to improve our public health response in times of disasters," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"This grant from the National Governors Association will afford CNMI the opportunity to leverage technical expertise across the Commonwealth through coordination from CHCC. The capacity development within CNMI agencies will benefit all CNMI residents," Muña added.

The NGA workshop is an opportunity for governors, legislators and key state staff to gain greater awareness of policy solutions to mitigate the consequences of public health emergencies. During the workshop, state teams will have access to national experts through virtual meetings and regular conference calls with NGA staff and partner organizations. The workshop will take place June 25-26.

This project is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To learn more about the NGA Homeland Security and Public Safety Division, visit www.nga.org/bestpractices/divisions/hsps/. ***(PR)***

Motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit is denied

The federal court found Thursday that Guam lawyer David J. Lujan violated the rules of professional conduct when he taped the telephone conversations he had with his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom, who is suing him for allegedly bilking him.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has barred Lujan from having any contact with Hillbroom without the written consent of Hillbroom's lawyer.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona gave Hillbroom permission to bill Lujan and Barry J. Israel for the attorney's fees he incurred—$11,750—to reply to the two lawyers' motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit.

The judge stated that she was, however, going to deny Hillbroom's motion to disqualify Theodore R. Frank as counsel for Israel.

Manglona also stated she was going to deny Hillbroom's request that Frank disclose his communication with Lujan from January 2019 up to the the present about the contact between Hillbroom and Lujan.

Manglona also intends to strike the transcripts of the phone calls between Hillbroom and Lujan from the record.

Manglona said she will deny the motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit as well as deny the alternative request that Hillbroom be made to testify about his instruction to his lawyer.

She directed Hillbroom's lawyer to submit by May 2 a supplemental accounting for hours and costs rendered.

The judge intends to issue a written order.

At the hearing, Rachel Dimitruk, Nelson Werner, and Mark Hanson appeared on behalf of Hillbroom. Frank appeared on behalf of Israel. Lujan and Keith Waibel appeared *pro se* or for themselves.

All parties, except for Hanson, appeared telephonically.

Dimitruk informed the court that Hillbroom is currently residing in Idaho and will not be appearing.

Dimitruk told the court that, subsequent to the communication between Hillbroom and Lujan, she (Dimitruk) has, in fact, received instructions, both through phone call and email, to continue and proceed with this litigation.

In his lawsuit, Hillbroom alleged that Israel and Lujan conspired with former trustee Keith Waibel to inflate their attorneys' contingency fee when the fortune of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court. Israel and Lujan served as counsel for Hillbroom in the probate matter.

Israel, who is now based in Vietnam, has asked the federal court to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit.

Israel, through Frank, cited Hillbroom's alleged decision to no longer proceed with this case.

Alternatively, Israel requested the court to order and conduct a hearing with Hillbroom in person or on the telephone on this issue as soon as possible.

Lujan joined in Israel's motion.

Frank said that, as early as Feb. 2, 2009, Hillbroom had instructed his lawyer to dismiss the lawsuit but his lawyer has not done so.

Hillbroom, through Dimitruk, opposed Israel's and Lujan's motion to dismiss.

Dimitruk said Hillbroom wants to proceed with his legal malpractice lawsuit and asks the court to sanction Israel and Lujan $11,950 for allegedly taping his conversations, which constituted an ethical violation.

Hillbroom also filed a motion for an order for monetary sanctions on Israel and Lujan and a motion to disqualify Frank as counsel for Israel.

According to Dimitruk, the "no contact rule," as promulgated by the American Bar Association as Rule 4.2 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, exists for the very purpose of protecting the unwary litigant from being unduly influenced by an attorney.

"While this rule does not bar parties from speaking to each other, the prohibition does apply to lawyers who are parties to litigation," Dimitruk said.

The lawyer said the court should sanction Israel and Lujan in the amount of $11,750 in attorney's fee and $200 in costs for cancellation of the deposition, for a total of $11,950.

Manglona said she would not be granting the request for $200 in cancellations fees.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillbroom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered. ***(Ferdie De La torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL, Bookmobile closed for inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Bookmobile Outreach Services will be closed for five days for inventory, from May 14 to May 18, 2019. All penalties for items due during this period will be waived. We ask the public for your cooperation in utilizing library programs and services in the days not covered by inventory.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu, Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu, and Snapchat @JoetenKiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

Military training in open ocean, at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct an open-ocean exercise on April 30 from 8am to 6pm at the following coordinates 13° 542"N/144° 379"E.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 30 and May 1, from 11am to 11:55pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. ***(PR)***

SCC membership meeting on May 1

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting in May will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The speakers are acting Finance secretary David Atalig, who will speak about his vision and plans for the CNMI Department of Finance, and Northern Marianas Humanities Council program officer Farah Younis to speak about the council's upcoming initiatives.

The luncheon begins at 11:30pm with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Tickets are $25 for Chamber members/$35 for non-members. To RSVP six or more attendees, email Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 in Susupe for more information. (***PR)***

LUCKY WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wendell Posadas, left, the eighth winner of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.'s giveaway promotion, will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. Also in the photo are Pacifica staff members Jane Madarang and Jacky Teregeyo. Pacifica Insurance is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019 to mark its 45th anniversary. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

04/29/19
Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2018/687	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court	Office of the Tinian Mayor	$86,250.00	($50,000.00)	$36,250.00	$86,250.00
2018/689	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	$200,000.00	($200,000.00)	N/A	$200,000.00
2018/690	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	$200,000.00	($200,000.00)	N/A	$200,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		**$486,250.00**	**($450,000.00)**		
2018	CDBG	Purchase of Fire Pumper Trucks for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Department of Fire and Emergency Services		$450,000.00	N/A	N/A
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			**$450,000.00**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before May 30, 2019, no later than 9:00 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2019-004
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: May 09, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Consulting Services

Proposal package will be available on April 05, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays or you may obtain the proposal package online at www.nmhcgov.net "Public Notice/Announcements" subtitle "Request for Proposal".

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

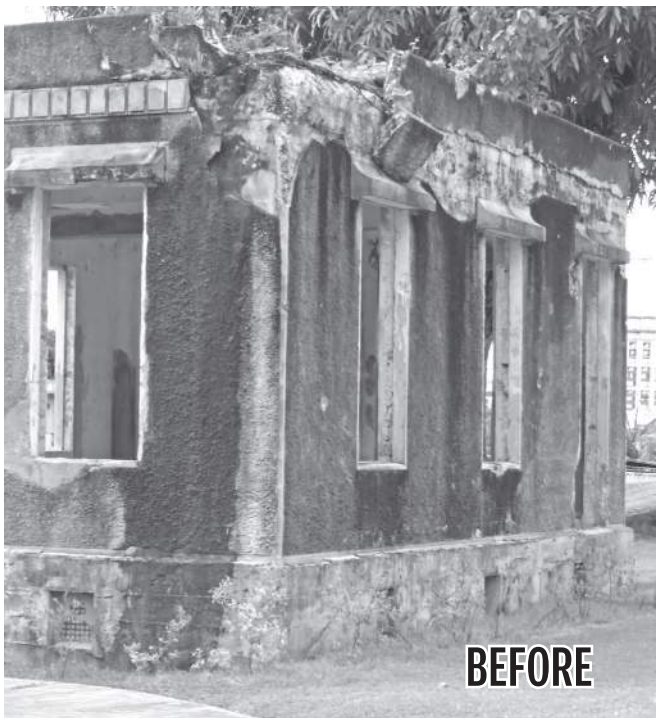
A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on April 25, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-proposal conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/7689; (670)483-9447; or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Joaquim S. Reyes, Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NMI Museum turns old Japanese lab into gift shop



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The former World War II-era Japanese laboratory is being repurposed into a gift shop and coffee shop.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Repairs to a former World War II-era Japanese laboratory on Saipan would soon be finished, completing its transition into a tourist-targeted coffee and gift shop.

CNMI Museum executive director Danny Aquino announced Thursday that repairs to the museum-owned building is nearly complete and it would soon be repurposed to help generate revenue for the museum.

"The repairs were necessary to prevent further deterioration and to preserve the historical building as well as safeguard the visitors that visit it…daily," Aquino said.

The CNMI Museum itself used to be a Japanese hospital, hence the presence of the adjacent laboratory.

"The completion of the Japanese laboratory building comes at a very important time when our proposed fiscal year 2020 budget may see up to a 53-percent cut, which will seriously hamper our operations. With the addition of the coffee shop and gift shop, we hope to generate additional revenue," Aquino noted.

"We are pleased with the overall repairs to the building and are receiving lots of positive comments from our guests and the public," he added.

According to Aquino, the museum obtained funding for the repairs from a Marianas Visitors Authority grant. He also expressed gratitude to the MVA board and staff for the project.

"Following the completion of the repairs we will begin to construct temporary huts to provide a venue for local artists to teach, display, and sell local products to our guests. I have reached out to the secretary of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the directors from the Arts Council, Chamorro Indigenous Affairs, and Carolinian Affairs Offices, who have all expressed support," he added.

With the completion of the building, some of the outdoor grounds of the NMI Museum would also serve as a venue for the 2019 MVA annual membership meeting this May 2019, as well as the 75th anniversary of World War II this June 2019.

Commerce prepares complaints for OAG

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Commerce immediately went to work and coordinated with the Consumer Protection Division of the CNMI Office of the Attorney soon after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the order declaring a price freeze on basic commodities in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.

That was when Torres declared a state of significant emergency and a state of major disaster declaration for the CNMI. Both declarations were also approved by the White House

Acting Commerce secretary Mark O. Rabauliman said all information on price gouging or establishments and other businesses not following the price freeze were given to the OAG's Consumer Protection Division, which is headed by Michele Harris.

The price freeze is still in effect for the entire CNMI after Torres extended the declaration of major disaster and state of significant emergency for the islands for another 30 days.

"There were [violations] just a couple of weeks after Yutu. We received some calls of potential violations [and] gave it to the OAG's Consumer Protection Division," Rabauliman said. "Technically, it is under the jurisdiction of the OAG. As far as Commerce's role, we helped out in disseminating information to all the businesses as we deal with them directly."

Rabauliman said they compile all reports they receive before forwarding them to the CPD. "In terms of any violation that was reported in, we take the messages and information in, then put together a packet and forwarded it to the AG's office for their review.

"And their agency [CPD], would handle it the way they see fit. Our role here is really advocating equity… all throughout, maintaining the message that has been put up by the Office of the Governor with regards to the price freeze."

A sudden increase in rental fees was the most common complaint that the OAG received after Yutu, as residents who lost their homes scrambled to find housing and other means of accommodations.

Demand for apartment and other types of shelter increased after Yutu as many residential units, most especially in the southern portion of the island and on Tinian, were destroyed by one of the most powerful weather disturbances to hit the CNMI.

The CPD is advising the public to report possible price gouging and other violations of the Price Freeze Act. For more information, contact Harris at (670) 237-7500.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST**) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-018
Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

16 get homestead lots in DPL lottery

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands' Homestead Division gave away 16 lots in Kagman 2 and 3 in a lottery last Thursday at the agency's conference room at the Joeten building in Dandan as part of an ongoing effort to cut back on its backlog.

Division director Irene Torres said they are trying their best to accommodate homestead applicants, starting with those who applied first even before the creation of the agency. DPL used to be the Marianas Public Land Authority and became a branch of the Executive Branch in February 2006.

Locating most of the homestead applicants has been one of the division's biggest challenges. "[The applicants have] either…changed their address or their contact information.

"Reaching out to applicants, especially those who are years back, is our major challenge right now," said Torres.

Of the homesteads given away in last Thursday's lottery, the lots were either revoked by DPL or were surrendered by previous individuals who earned it through the program. Another homestead lottery is scheduled before the year ends.

Some of those who earned homestead lots last Thursday first applied for lots in the years 1992 to 1994. "We really thank them for their patience. But today is a really good day for all of you. We're looking for applicants that are 20 years ago while some are 30 years ago. One here applied in 1988 while the rest are in the 1990s," Torres said.

JON PEREZ

Acting Public Lands secretary Marianne Teregeyo, right, addresses the participants in Thursday's Homestead Lottery at the Department of Public Lands conference room. At right of Teregeyo is DPL Homestead Director Irene Torres.

"If there are address changes or phone number changes [among homestead applicants], all that [makes it] hard to reach out and locate them. That's why we always try to go out and locate them. We also announce our homestead lottery [on the radio] and even through Facebook. We're trying everything so we could reach out to them," she added.

She cited various factors that delayed the distribution of homestead lots, one of them possibly the transition period from MPLA to DPL in 2006.

"I don't want to speak for the previous directors but I guess the transition was one of the causes why they have not issued homestead lots for some time. We're now working our way up. We can't work on just any year. We have to start from those who applied first.

"That's why, with acting secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, we are actively working on pushing for this program, pulling those applications out, gathering as much lots as we can, and start giving them away. There are still a lot of open lots. These are lots that were vacated for many years and have been inactive."

"After this, we have 12 left that we're still actively working on the permits. Inspecting the lots that were given if they have already built a house and complied or if they are not compliant," said Torres, who added that her staff actively goes out to work on those lots to be awarded to other applicants through the lottery system.

Saipan is reserved just for village homesteads while Pagan is for agriculture.

One of the applicants who benefited from Thursday lottery, Virginian Camacho, said her 30-year dream of having her own homestead lot finally came true. "I want to build a house for my family right away. Hopefully, I could get the money. I've been waiting for a long time and I'm glad that I finally got it."

"Now, I'm going to see how it goes. …Once we have a home, most likely I will move in with my family. Now, I will have to wait for the permit to be issued to us and their call so they could show us the lot," added Camacho, who is currently living with her relatives. The lot consists of about 800 square meters in Kagman 3.

First lady Diann Torres, who witnessed the lottery program, was glad to see the homestead lots finally being awarded to applicants who've waited for more than 10 years.

"It is a happy day indeed. Like what the DPL acting secretary said for those who have long waited—some have waited for 30 years—I'm excited to hear we have another [homestead lottery] by the end of the year," she said.

She also encouraged people to take advantage of the homestead lottery program, "This is a good thing since people need it. It will, of course, [improve] their lives; a lot of people here would have homes. For those who have applied, be patient, DPL is looking at available lands on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; Pagan [agriculture homestead] is coming up; so, have patience, it is a long process, but their time will come," the first lady said.

MPLT money to ease burden on general fund—Atalig

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Finance secretary David Atalig is committed to making sure the government meets its obligation to the Settlement Fund this week and its bond payments in May.

That's where the planned line of credit from the Marinas Public Lands Trust would come in, to help ease the burden on the general fund as the CNMI recovers from the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Toward this end, a bill has been pre-filed in the CNMI House of Representives that would create a credit facility in order to address the bond obligations and retirement settlement fund payments.

House Bill 21-44, which House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) would introduce in this week's session, is pursuant to Article XI Section 6(d) of the CNMI Constitution.

Atalig, during a public hearing Thursday at the Senate on Capital Hill, told members of the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee that he has already asked MPLT through the Governor's Office to negotiate that line of credit.

He says the line of credit is not necessarily a loan but a drawdown of some funds to help pay for obligations, to assist in the payment of the Settlement Fund and general bond obligations.

"At the moment, I am strapped for revenue cash collections. Until the enforcement and revenue collection task force show improvements, I need an infusion of cash to make good on our bond obligation payment of $4.2 million due on May 1 and [$2.9 million] for the Settlement Fund due by April 30," said Atalig.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), who joined the EAGI Committee in the meeting, said they are ready to act on H.B. 21-44 as soon as soon as it passes the House. "We're heading to challenging times. This legislation would [somehow handle] the shortfall. We will look into that. We're experiencing shortage to meet our bond payments and to the Settlement Fund, and these are critical," he said.

Atalig said a delay in the reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is one of the challenges that they are facing in coming up with the needed funds to fulfill the government's obligations. The CNMI government's expenses to recover from the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu will be reimbursed by FEMA.

"My plan is to repay this line of credit, not necessarily to take a loan but to have some flexibility of having some funds—a short bridge loan but not to obligate the CNMI government."

"As acting secretary of Finance, we need this infusion of cash to pay our obligations but not at the expense of the general operation funds or operational costs," he added.

He said it would be unacceptable for the CNMI not to make its bond payments and pay its obligation to the Settlement Fund "because there's a negative effect to not paying our bonds; it will give us a bad bond or credit rating. And not paying the Settlement Fund will put us in a default where we are going to be obligated for $750 million and would put up in a bankruptcy situation. I would not allow that to happen to the CNMI.

"I'm prepared to make those payments; I have a due date, but our government is strapped for cash. Yes, we are in a serious cash-flow situation due to reimbursements from FEMA not coming to us as expected or in a timely manner."

Atalig added: "We're in a situation of not having the full funds needed to pay these obligations. As acting secretary, I have the authority to use other funds but I just choose not to touch other accounts for the purpose of the bonds or Settlement Fund. It goes back to the practice of not using other funds and knowing that these monies are set aside for a particular reason, which should stay in those accounts."

CHCC: Losartan on shelf is 'good batch'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has clarified that the hypertension maintenance medicine that are on the shelves of its pharmacy is not affected by the recent Losartan recall.

CHCC clarified in a statement Thursday last week that no Losartan in its pharmacy's stock is part of the recent U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recall and urges the public to continue purchasing Losartan in the pharmacy.

"Most recalls, such as the recent recall of Losartan, a blood pressure medication, only affects certain batches of medication, not every single bottle," CHCC said. "The CHCC Outpatient Pharmacy's current stock of Losartan is not part of the current FDA recall, and patients are urged to continue taking their medication as prescribed."

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña noted in an interview last Wednesday that the CHCC pharmacy pulled out all the bad batches of Losartan right after they received notification of the recall.

People who are believed to have bought drugs from the batch affected by the recall were immediately contacted and asked to come in to have their medicine replaced.

In its recent statement, CHC stressed that not all batches of Losartan are affected by the recall.

"…CHCC would like to reassure the public that they closely monitor drug recalls, and take appropriate action in the event of a recall," CHCC noted, adding that notifying patients that have been prescribed a recalled drug and working with them to find an alternate solution was one of those actions, including notifying the public if the recall extends to all products.

Last April 18, 2019, the FDA recalled 36 Losartan potassium tablet lots and 68 Losartan potassium/hydrochlorothiazide tablet lots for alleged NMBA contamination.

NMBA is one of the three carcinogens found in hypertension medicine produced by Torrent Pharmaceuticals, the medical company that produces Losartan. The other two include NMDA and NDEA.

The contamination was reportedly hushed for a year before health officials acknowledged the contamination, which had already exposed more than two million people around the world.

Other blood pressure drugs such as Valsartan and Irbesartan were also found to be contaminated and were recalled.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Construction Supervisor
NUMBER OF OPENING: 100
WAGES/SALARY: $21.95 per hour / Overtime Rate: $32.92 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on April 15, 2019 and ending on April 14, 2020

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Supervise, coordinate, or schedule the activities of construction or extractive workers.
- Read specifications, such as blueprints, to determine construction requirements or to plan procedures.
- Inspect work progress, equipment, or construction sites to verify safety or to ensure that specifications are met.
- Locate, measure, and mark site locations or placement of structures or equipment, using measuring and marking equipment.
- Coordinate work activities with other construction project activities.
- Assign work to employees, based on material or worker requirements of specific jobs.
- Estimate material or worker requirements to complete jobs.
- Confer with managerial or technical personnel, other departments, or contractors to resolve problems or to coordinate activities. Order or requisition materials or supplies.
- Analyze worker or production problems and recommend solutions, such as improving production methods or implementing motivational plans.
- Train workers in construction methods, operation of equipment, safety procedures, or company policies. Record information such as personnel, production, or operational data on specified forms or reports. Provide assistance to workers engaged in construction or extraction activities, using hand tools or other equipment.
- Arrange for repairs of equipment or machinery.
- Suggest or initiate personnel actions, such as promotions, transfers, or hires.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a **Construction Supervisor** is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is $21.95 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of $32.92.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at

IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

JOB TITLE: Painter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 300
WAGES/SALARY: $8.35 per hour / Overtime Rate: $12.52 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on May 06, 2019 and ending on May 05, 2020

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Fill cracks, holes, or joints with caulk, putty, plaster, or other fillers, using caulking guns or putty knives.
- Cover surfaces with dropcloths or masking tape and paper to protect surfaces during painting.
- Smooth surfaces, using sandpaper, scrapers, brushes, steel wool, or sanding machines.
- Read work orders or receive instructions from supervisors or homeowners to determine work requirements.
- Apply primers or sealers to prepare new surfaces, such as bare wood or metal, for finish coats.
- Apply paint, stain, varnish, enamel, or other finishes to equipment, buildings, bridges, or other structures, using brushes, spray guns, or rollers.
- Erect scaffolding or swing gates, or set up ladders, to work above ground level.
- Mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish with oil or thinning and drying additives to obtain desired colors and consistencies.
- Calculate amounts of required materials and estimate costs, based on surface measurements or work orders.
- Polish final coats to specified finishes.
- Wash and treat surfaces with oil, turpentine, mildew remover, or other preparations, and sand rough spots to ensure that finishes will adhere properly.
- Select and purchase tools or finishes for surfaces to be covered, considering durability, ease of handling, methods of application, and customers' wishes.
- Remove old finishes by stripping, sanding, wire brushing, burning, or using water or abrasive blasting.
- Remove fixtures such as pictures, door knobs, lamps, or electric switch covers prior to painting.
- Use special finishing techniques such as sponging, ragging, layering, or faux finishing.
- Cut stencils and brush or spray lettering or decorations on surfaces.
- Waterproof buildings, using waterproofers or caulk.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Painter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is $8.35 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of $12.52.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
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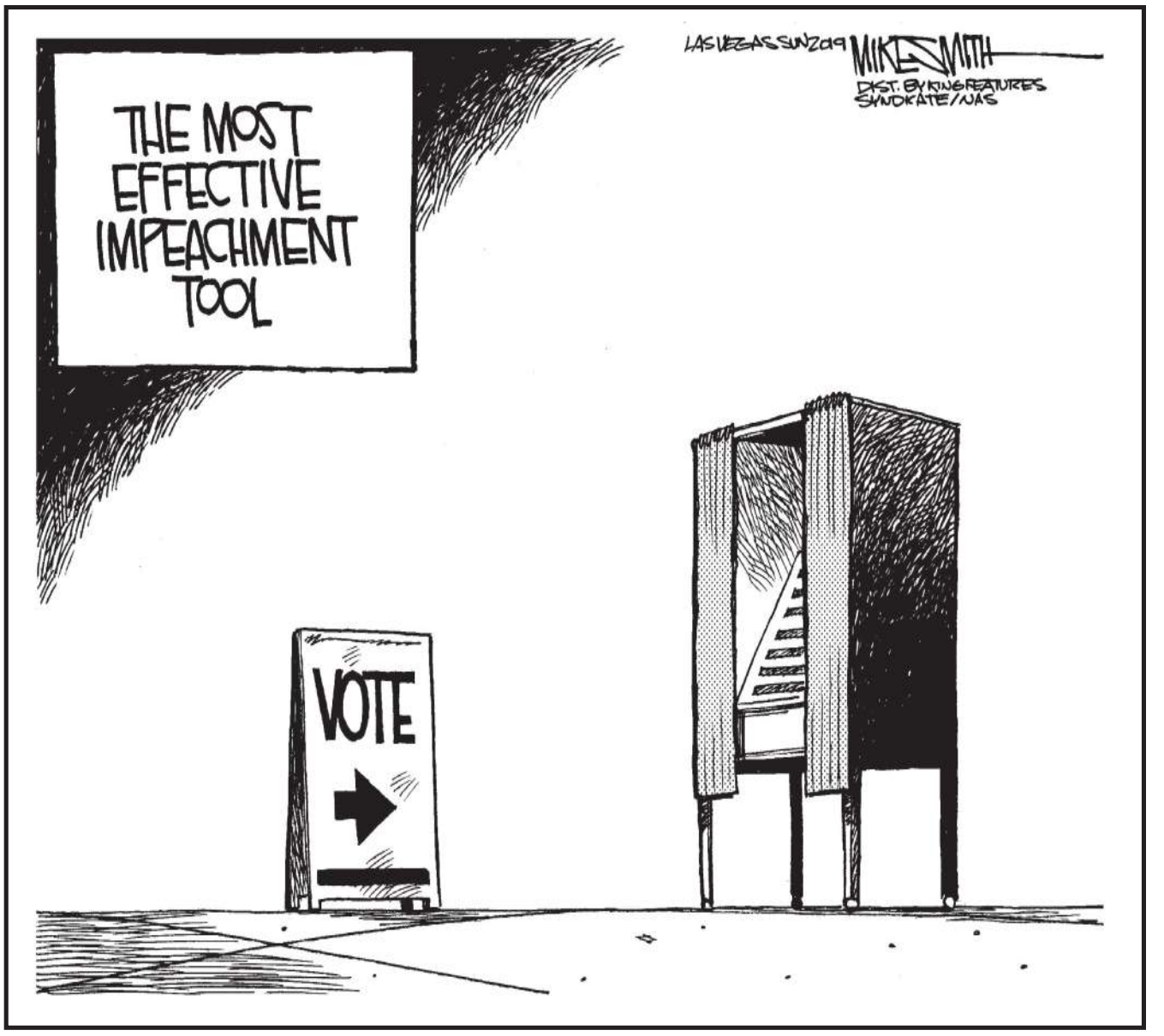

EDITORIAL

What 'Jeopardy' champion James Holzhauer teaches us about success

Go ahead, James Holzhauer. Be excellent.

Everybody loves a winner—except, it seems, when it's someone running the board day after day and toppling records on "Jeopardy." Then suddenly that person is compared to a robot and told to "give someone else a chance."

Nonsense.

Holzhauer, a Naperville North High School graduate and University of Illinois alumnus, has prevailed over his opponents for 16 episodes as of Thursday, tallying up $1.2 million. A professional sports bettor with a mathematical mind, he dominates early, casting big bets with his signature "all in" hand gesture.

We've noticed some viewers squawking at his dominance as somehow unfair. We say appreciate the man's game while it lasts. No one wins forever.

We suggest everyone, especially the Holzhauer Haters, study his keys to superiority:

Master the subject area. Technique aside, Holzhauer only wins if he gets answers right—in the form of a question!—and he does, over and over again. Bravo.

Master the tools. He's agile on the buzzer—he practiced using a homemade version—and his timing is impeccable. And he knows how to assess a wager. The strain of mental calculations is not slowing his roll.

Master the strategy. He dances to his best advantage across the game board, one that's been broadcast in plain view for decades. Holzhauer watched the show as a child with his grandma. Don't blame him for figuring a few things out along the way.

Act boldly. Holzhauer isn't rattled by the dollars. He obviously gets an edge here from his day job, but other contestants could get into this mental mindset just the same, remembering that any money lost is on paper only. He also isn't "paying his dues" by playing the board in the usual order, which irks some viewers. There are no extra points for timidity or plodding.

If watching Holzhauer triumph repeatedly dulls the show's tension, that's not his fault. Producers select contestants, and it's their job to evaluate who will make an entertaining show. What the occasional outlying champion costs "Jeopardy" in prize money, the show surely makes up for in publicity.

Two of those with the most skin in the game have toasted Holzhauer's success. Alex Trebek, the storied host who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer after these shows were filmed, teased him good-naturedly, Holzhauer has said. Ken Jennings, a previous "Jeopardy" super-winner, has marveled while watching this new star in action.

"This is absolutely insane," Jennings tweeted. "I've always wanted to see someone try Jeopardy! wagering this way who had the skills to back it up."

Now that's showing a love of the game.

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Sri Lanka's tragedy—a lesson for us all

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

Sadly, suicide bombings have long been part of the history and culture of life—that is, terrorisms' horrific ending of life—in the small island nation of Sri Lanka, just off the eastern coast of India.

It was a generation ago when a youth I've called Kittu got caught up in the life spiral that led him in 2001 to follow his leaders' orders, strap on his deadly explosive jacket and set out on his assignment to assassinate a high-level intelligence official. And this past Easter Sunday, when coordinated suicide bombings killed more than 300 people in Sri Lanka, I found myself thinking about Kittu and the stunning twists of his life story.

I had recounted Kittu's tale in my 2003 book, "Avoiding Armageddon," about the danger that terrorists might someday acquire poorly secured weapons of mass destruction. Fortunately, Sunday's tragic explosions in Sri Lanka didn't involve nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. But it reminds us of the lessons we must remember about the human turmoil that propel youths around the world to choose paths of suicidal terrorism. And the other lessons we still overlook about what can happen when leaders ignore urgent warnings.

Kittu was just 13 when a battle between Army troops and the then-Tamil Tiger rebels suddenly surrounded his family's small farm in 1990. He saw his mother and father run toward the army, waving their hands, seeking protection for the family. He saw the soldiers' gunfire, saw his parents fall dead. Kittu fled and joined the Tamil Tigers so he could someday pay back the army that killed his parents.

The Tamil Tigers had pioneered suicide bombing, led the world in those deadly missions accomplished. At first Kittu didn't realize he was being trained to be a suicide bomber. Then he was issued his specially designed explosive training jacket. "We train on that jacket over and over again," says Kittu. "...We would set off the detonator several times until we lose the fear of doing it."

Finally, he got his assignment: assassinate the high-level intelligence official. "Personal details, whether he has parents, children, we have never been told," Kittu explained. "...What we are told is that this man has done this damage to us and therefore he must be zeroed."

Kittu headed out on the assignment he knew would be the last day of his life. But somehow the government found out and he was captured before he reached his target. So he did what he'd sworn to do—popped two cyanide capsules into his mouth. But before he bit the capsules, he realized he didn't want to die. So when a soldier grabbed his jaw, Kittu spit out the capsules. That's why he lived and could tell us his story, a year after his capture.

"I am leading a good life," he said. "...now my life is much better. ... I am a civilian now." But Kittu was not yet an entirely free man. He lived in a halfway house, where he was being rehabilitated and educated by his official government minder. "And I have basically learned so much about life now," he said, gratefully. Kittu's minder was the Sri Lankan intelligence officer who, on that twist-of-fate day he was captured in 2001, had been his assigned target.

The fact that Kittu's story became a story of life—and not another tragedy of youthful suicide and mass murder—is an optimistic lesson in our world that has too often witnessed religion being used to justify bloodshed. Years ago, Sri Lanka peacefully resolved its Tamil Tiger era of Hindu versus Buddhist violence.

But last Sunday's highly coordinated attacks, perpetrated with the proclaimed coordination of the Islamic State, have plunged Sri Lankans into new depths of mourning and anger over the new era of religiously fueled tragedy that has befallen their nation. And, apparently that anger is heightened by the Sri Lankan government's failure to react quickly after receiving detailed advance warnings that should have led officials to prevent the attacks. Yet Kittu's tale reminds today's grieving Sri Lankans, and all the world, of a time when Sri Lanka's government acted quickly—and positively—to prevent a suicidal assassination but also save and redeem the assassin.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ode to the unsung professionals

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

My husband Michael called from the other side of the world in the middle of the night with bad news: the old friend with whom he was traveling was suddenly very sick.

It was noon their time, and instead of embarking on a river cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia—a trip they'd been planning for months—they were heading to a local hospital.

I was grateful that medical care was available and that our friend could receive immediate attention at a local clinic. It was not a surprise that almost no one spoke English (why would they?) but terribly surprising to discover that our friend's condition was worse than anyone first imagined. Suddenly, there was a scramble to get our sick pal to a more sophisticated facility as soon as possible.

In emergency situations, you expect to be grateful for all the people who aid the patient, from nurses and doctors to ambulance drivers and interpreters—and naturally we all were, down to our rapidly beating hearts.

But I also discovered myself profoundly grateful to a professional not previously on my list of leading caregivers: our travel agent.

I made panicky calls to her office throughout the day, asking for help with one emergency after the other. Shannon knew how to make sure that Michael could stay in his hotel room for days after he was meant to leave, despite the hotel being fully booked, so that he could spend hours with our hospitalized friend. She helped in arranging for our friend to be medically evacuated back to his home state. Finally, with entirely reimagined travel arrangements, she figured out how to fly Michael back to our home as well.

She was kind, knowledgeable and patient—and efficient. Shannon kept everything together when it all started to fall apart. It was a lesson to me.

Like so many other people, you see, I'd almost convinced myself that I could've handled all travel necessary arrangements myself—simply because I have access to a computer and could, therefore, figure it all out on my own.

One of my friends has a what he calls a "personal philosophy" that goes something like, "Well if a plumber can do it, (ASTERISK)I(ASTERISK) can do it." His massive plumbing bills have humbled him, as this recent experience humbled me.

We shouldn't kid ourselves: having information is different from having expertise.

I've started to think about the other unsung professionals in our lives, the ones whom we too often underestimate because we secretly believe we could pretty much do what they do.

Margaret Atwood discusses the concept in her book "Negotiating With the Dead," pointing out that lots of folks believe they could be singers, actors, dancers, writers or artists if only they tried, because singing, acting, dancing, writing and painting seem easy enough. But liking to write is different from "being a writer," Atwood argues. "Everyone can dig a hole in the cemetery, but not everyone is a grave-digger," she explains. "The latter takes a good deal more stamina and persistence."

In other words:

Using spellcheck doesn't mean you can do without a proofreader.

Having a proofreader doesn't mean you can do without a copy editor.

Having a copy editor doesn't mean you can do without an editor.

Taking scissors to your own bangs or shaving the back of somebody's neck (even if they want you to) doesn't mean you're a hair stylist.

Asking a search engine for information is nothing like asking a librarian for suggestions about a source. As my friend Elizabeth Flanigan puts it, "Google can give you a million answers, but a librarian can give you the right one."

Having a child doesn't make you an expert on children.

Baking a pie, even if you peel the apples yourself, doesn't make you a pastry chef.

Taking pictures with your cell phone does not make you "a photographer" any more than brushing your teeth twice a day makes you "a dentist."

Having money and a big mouth doesn't make you a political leader.

I'd like to propose that we recognize expertise and celebrate it when we encounter it—and not only when we find ourselves in dire, life-saving, world-shattering need of it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Okeanos Marianas' impact

Hafa adai, Marianas community: With care for the indigenous community of CNMI, the Okeanos Foundation and Carolinian master navigator Ali Haleyalur write this letter in response to the most recent article in *Marianas Variety* about Okeanos Marianas leaving Saipan. We write to set the record straight out of respect for the many successes of the Okeanos Marianas local crew and the many ways they positively contributed to CNMI. We hope our letter to you inspires an open and constructive dialogue that helps bring your community together.

The Okeanos Foundation supports Pacific communities wishing to use traditionally-based sustainable sea transportation as a platform for economic empowerment and independence based upon revival of open ocean sailing to meet day-to-day needs. Master navigator Ali is not employed by Okeanos but is partnering with Okeanos because the work of the foundation is urgently needed to help remote outer island communities in Micronesia and specifically his home state of Yap.

From September 2017 to December 2018, Okeanos invested more than $350,000 in the voyaging community of Saipan, during which time several people were paid full salaries with health insurance, other part-time salaries and many received professional sailing, safety and captains training.

Okeanos invested heavily in the Okeanos Marianas sustainable sea transport start-up, sponsoring many free sails of the *vaka motu* from Saipan to Yap, Guam, Chuuk and other outer islands in the Marianas while training and employing local sailors and servicing outer island communities with sustainable sea transportation.

Now as Okeanos prepares to depart the CNMI—sailed away by master navigator Ali who is bringing the vessel to Yap—we wish to stop and reflect on the good work of the local Okeanos Marianas crew. A list of their contributions can be seen in the articles and descriptions of their activities below.

We wish the CNMI's canoe family the very best. We prepared the below list of their positive impacts in the hopes that the CNMI canoe family can build upon their successes to support their future voyaging goals.

HISTORIC VOYAGES

Maiden sail from New Zealand to Saipan - fall 2017

Okeanos Marianas braved over 4,000 miles from Auckland to Saipan, training Chamorro and Carolinian sailors along the way. Okeanos Marianas arrived on Saipan on Oct. 2017, greeted with cultural ceremonies performed by members of the CNMI voyaging community.

Rota and Guam - November 2017

Rota marked the first of several CNMI outer islands visited by Okeanos Marianas. The *vaka* sailed to Rota in October 2017 as a training exercise for crew members and for cultural engagement with the Rota community.

In November 2017, Okeanos Marianas sailed from Rota to Guam to spread the message of cultural revival and recruited crew members. As a commitment to providing sustainable sea transportation to these communities, the crew arranged to bring bicycles to Rota for participants of a local triathlon, as well as lumber for the construction of another canoe on Saipan.

Yap Canoe Festival: December 2017

For the first time in eight years, the CNMI was represented at the Yap Annual Canoe Festival through Okeanos Marianas. For 21 days, Okeanos Marianas sails to Yap for the Annual Canoe Festival under the guidance of master navigator Sesario Sewralur, son of Micronesian Pwo master navigator Mau Piailug.

Okeanos Marianas also stopped in Guam along the way, joining the traditional Carolinian sailing *proas* in the Festival Parade of Canoes and gave the public a chance to board Okeanos Marianas and take a short ride.

Free sails to Tinian: February 2018

Okeanos Marianas offers free rides to Tinian for the Pika Festival.

Sarigan, Anatahan and Rota: March 2018

The crew sailed to the Northern Islands as an education opportunity for the crew to practice their sailing skills. Okeanos Marianas stopped on Managaha along the way, teaching SDA Kindergartners about the canoe.

During their sail to Rota, Okeanos Marianas focused on training primarily women crewmembers. "We will be holding job interviews there for part-time crew and the mayor asked us to hold a swimming class. We are also bringing cargo, this time including ingredients for the bakery, brandy among them for a special cake," said one of the crew.

Pagan: April/May 2018

The crew of Okeanos Marianas sailed to the sacred northern island of Pagan, led by nephew of grand master navigator Papa Mau Piailug, captain Cecilio Raiukiulipiy. The voyage was joined by renowned Carolinian navigator Ali Haleyalur, who was asked to sail on 500 Sails' *proa Neni*.

Satawal and other Yap/Chuuk outer islands: July 2018

Okeanos Marianas voyaged to the remote Caroline island of Satawal, revered as a mecca for traditional navigation. The Yap outer island is the birthplace of *pwo* master navigator Mau Piailug.

Disaster relief operations to Rota & Tinian: November 2018

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Open House

Okeanos Marianas held an open house in which members of the community were able to tour the boat as well as learn about the components and mechanics of the canoe.

Poluwat Lagoon sail

In the summer of 2019, Okeanos Marianas participated in a lagoon sail with women and children from Poluwat, an outer island of Chuuk that is home to some of the oldest and revered traditional navigators in Micronesia. For many, this was their first time on a twin double-hulled sailing canoe.

Chief Aghurubw Day

On Chief Aghurubw Day, Okeanos Marianas sailed with schoolchildren to Anatahan, the first island north of Saipan. Most of the participants had not been to that island in decades.

On a four-day sail, Okeanos Marianas voyaged to Sangan and Anatahan. The crew stopped in Managua to teach Seventh Day Adventist Kindergarteners about the canoe and entertained them by blows of its conch shell.

Science and research platform

To inspire young explorers, engineers, and scientists of the Marianas, a workshop was set up through contributions. Representatives of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Northern Marianas College, the Public School System (through Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance), CNMI Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality, Okeanos Marianas, Underwater World Guam, and University of Guam Marine Lab were selected as facilitators.

Once the facilitators were trained, 18 students were taught how to build and operate machines. The students were able to build six underwater robots. Transportation for this workshop was provided by Okeanos Marianas.

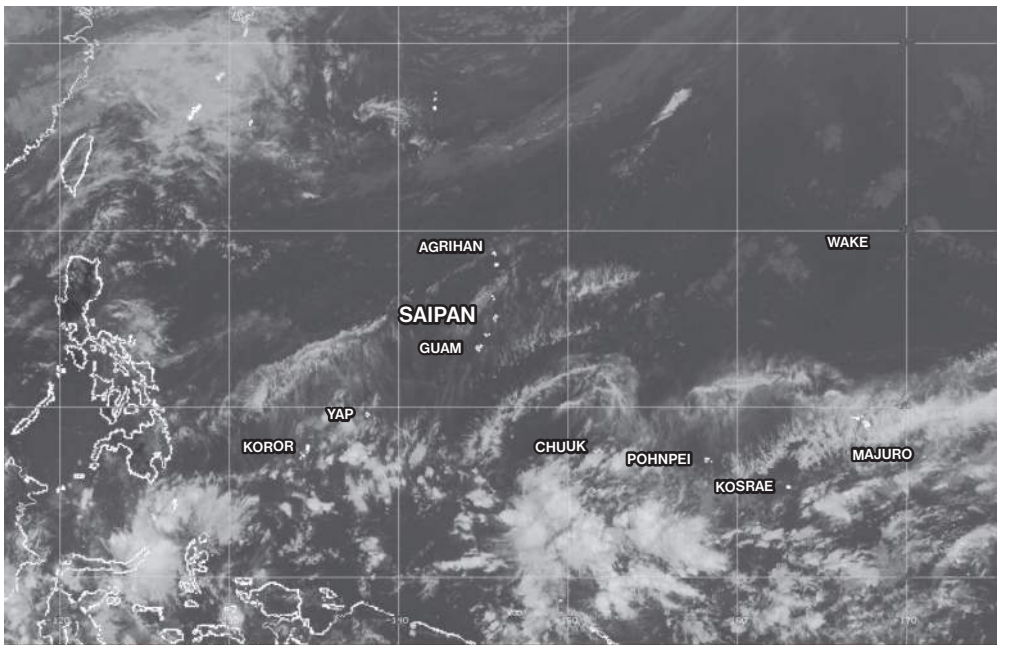
Dena Seidel
dena.seidel@okeanos-foundation.org

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 76°	89° 76°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:28 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 12 to 18 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal 4 to 6 foot combined seas composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Showers	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 70°
London	Cloudy	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	68° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	99° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 55°
Miami	Sunny	82° / 74°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 51°
Osaka	Showers	68° / 63°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Busan	Showers	66° / 55°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	88° / 61°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 50°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 52°
Tokyo	Showers	66° / 61°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 56°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
10:46 AM	LOW TIDE	0.99
3:30 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.38
10:15 PM	LOW TIDE	0.38

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:10 AM	1:58 PM	-
Tuesday	2:49 AM	2:46 PM	-
Wednesday	3:27 AM	3:33 PM	-
Thursday	4:05 AM	4:21 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:10 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily up to May 3

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:30am	3:15pm	Daily up to May 3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

USCIS to expand info program modernization to NMI

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will expand its Information Services Modernization Program to the CNMI Office on May 13.

USCIS anticipates expanding the program to all remaining field offices by the end of fiscal year 2019.

The Information Services Modernization Program ends self-scheduling of InfoPass appointments and instead encourages applicants to use USCIS online information resources to view general how-to information and check case statuses through the USCIS Contact Center.

Recent improvements to online tools provide applicants the ability to obtain their case status and other immigration information without having to visit a local field office.

» Program provides operational efficiencies, improves delivery of services

USCOS' Information Modernization program started as a pilot in March 2018 and since then has improved the delivery of emergency and other critical in-person services quickly. The agency hopes this new system will help people "skip the trip" and they will only have to come in for urgent situations. An additional benefit is that this system ultimately gives USCIS field officers greater capacity to complete their cases more quickly.

"Expanding this program is a significant step in our efforts to move more USCIS services and information online," said USCIS Director Francis Cissna. "It also frees up agency staff to spend more time adjudicating benefit requests which should help reduce case processing times. USCIS remains committed to pursuing the most effective and efficient ways to administer our nation's lawful immigration system."

At USCIS pilot field offices, the Information Services Modernization program reduced the average wait time for an appointment from 11 to five days. Additionally, when an individual needed in-person assistance, the USCIS Contact Center has been able to schedule it for them without the individual having to search for available time slots.

For more information on USCIS and our programs, visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), Instagram (/uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Facebook (/uscis), and LinkedIn (/uscis). ***(USCIS)***

Humanitarian exercise 'Pacific Partnership 2019' ends in FSM

By LT. EMILY STRONG
COMMANDER, LOGISTICS GROUP WESTERN PACIFIC

ASAN, Guam—With a ceremony hosted onboard Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport ship USNS B*runswick*, Pacific Partnership 2019 concluded the fourth mission stop in Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia last April 25.

The ceremony, which featured remarks from mission leadership, host nation and partner nation leadership, and regional military leadership, celebrated the disaster response capabilities demonstrated and learned during the mission stop.

"This mission is one we can be proud of," said FSM President Peter Christian, noting that the 47 hours of humanitarian assistance and disaster response training also resulted in six completed engineering projects, 110 medical subject matter expert exchanges, and 16 community outreach events accomplished while in Chuuk.

The real-world skills demonstrated in the outer islands translated to successful training and side-by-side demonstrations in Chuuk.

"After providing emergency and real time medical and infrastructure capacity building and disaster response in the Mortlocks and Northwest outer islands of Chuuk, which were hard hit by Typhoon Wutip, in partnership, the dedicated, multinational sailors, soldiers, and Marines of USNS *Brunswick* entered the Chuuk Lagoon to resume its scheduled activities on Weno and the surrounding islands," said U.S. Ambassador to FSM Robert Riley.

Royal Navy Capt. Paddy Allen, Pacific Partnership director of mission, highlighted PP19 as a mission of cooperation between the Pacific Partnership team and the people of FSM.

"It's a mission about building each other's experience and expertise, working towards disaster risk reduction," he said. "Disaster emergencies transcend boundaries and require comprehensive preparation and coordination. We are stronger and more efficient when we work side by side, as we have demonstrated in the last month in the islands of Chuuk State."

The crew of Pacific Partnership and *Brunswick* concluded their two-week visit to Chuuk after disaster response work in the outer islands, which proved that "Pacific Partnership 2019 was not just an exercise; it was really a response," said Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas.

"It was so delightful to see how this crew came together to develop the capabilities, even as each day's events unfolded, and transportation was difficult, including finding navigation routes that would allow access to each island—each problem you solved made you a better team and gave the region additional capabilities," she said.

U.S. Navy Information Systems Technician 2nd Class KN Nethon, U.S. Army Spc. Rally Gilmete, and U.S. Army Sgt. Joseia Lemari received special thanks for their participation in Pacific Partnership 2019. All three have ties to the region: Nethon is a native of Chuuk; Gilmete is from Pohnpei, FSM; and Lemari, a native of Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, attended Xavier High School in Chuuk.

Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. ***(PR)***

USDOL secures $3.3M judgment vs IPI for contractors' wage violations

The U.S. Department of Labor has secured a $3,360,000 consent judgment against the developer of the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel and Casino in Garapan for minimum wage, overtime, and recordkeeping violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act by contractors working on the construction project.

Entered by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, the judgment orders Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International Holdings, and its Saipan subsidiary Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), to pay $3,160,000 in back wages and liquidated damages to approximately 1,100 employees. The developer must also pay $200,000 in civil money penalties.

The settlement follows an investigation by the Department's Wage and Hour Division that found wage violations occurred when foreign-based construction subcontractors failed to pay their workforce required overtime premium rates for hours worked beyond 40 in a workweek. Investigators also found some of the subcontractors' day rates placed employees' earnings below federal minimum wage.

"This judgment demonstrates the U.S. Department of Labor's strong commitment to ensuring employees receive the wages they have earned," said Wage and Hour Division District Director Terence Trotter in Honolulu, Hawaii. "We will continue to enforce the law and level the playing field, while simultaneously encourage employers and employees to call us for assistance, and use the wide variety of tools we provide. Violations like those found in this investigation can be avoided."

The Department's Office of the Solicitor litigated this case.

"In addition to providing $3,360,000 in unpaid wages, liquidated damages, and penalties, this judgment orders the defendants to adhere to an independent monitoring mechanism, and to take additional steps to safeguard the wages and working conditions of employees," said Regional Solicitor Janet Herold in San Francisco. "Regardless of where work is performed in the U.S. or its territories, the U.S. Department of Labor will continue to fully and fairly enforce the law and provide a level playing field for employers."

To date, the department has found approximately $17.3 million for more than 2,500 employees working on the Saipan hotel and casino project.

Employers who discover overtime or minimum wage violations may self-report and resolve those violations without litigation through the PAID program. For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division, contact the Division's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Information is also available at www.dol.gov/whd including a search tool for workers who may be owed back wages collected by WHD. ***(PR)***

From left, Annie Fay Camacho; Liza J. Provido; Hyo Sang Ji; Sandra H. McKeever; Elvin Y. Chiang; Thomas W. Krise; Christopher K. Felix; Jillette T. Leon Guerrero; Jerold W. Filush; and Mari Flor Herrero.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Felix elected to chair UOG board of regents

The University of Guam board of regents elected Christopher K. Felix as its chairman at its April 18 meeting. The other new board officers are Mari Flor Herrero, vice chairperson; Jerold W. Filush, treasurer.

Felix was also elected as the chairperson in November to temporarily fill the seat of outgoing board chair Elizabeth C. "Betty" Gayle.

Other bregents who were appointed into committees by the chairperson are Jillette T. Leon Guerrero (pending replacement); Elvin Y. Chiang; Hyo Sang Ji (pending replacement); Liza J. Provido; Sandra H. McKeever; and Annie Fay Camacho (student regent pending replacement).

UOG president Thomas W. Krise serves as the executive secretary of the board.

Regents are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Guam Legislature. They serve a term of six years.

The board of regents has general supervision over the university and meets no fewer than four times per year. The board sets the policies governing the duties, conditions of employment, compensation, and salary of all university employees and also submits an annual budget to the Legislature. ***(PR)***

Business

Juul nicotine hit may be 'Worst for kids, best for smokers'

WASHINGTON (AP)—She tried gums, patches and various electronic cigarettes to quit smoking. What finally worked for Chantel Williams was a small, reusable e-cigarette called Juul that packs a big nicotine punch.

"I look better. I feel better and I don't smell. It's fantastic," said Williams of Portland, Oregon, who smoked for decades.

That nicotine hit and its easy-to-inhale vapor is one reason why Juul is so popular—and so feared.

"That's the trouble with Juul: It's probably the worst for kids but it might be the best for adult smokers," said Dr. Nancy Rigotti, a tobacco treatment specialist at Harvard Medical School.

The brainchild of two Stanford University design students, Juul launched in 2015 and quickly leapfrogged over its competitors to become the top-selling e-cigarette in the U.S. Today, the privately held company controls nearly three-quarters of the $3.7 billion-dollar retail market for e-cigarettes, spawning dozens of copycat brands along the way.

With Juul's rise came an explosion of underage vaping, alarming public health officials and lawmakers. Last year, 1 in 5 U.S. high school students reported vaping in the previous month, according to a government survey.

Juul and other pod-based vaping devices can be used discreetly, without the smoke, odor or throat irritation that deterred some teenagers from smoking. E-cigarettes typically heat a solution containing nicotine into a vapor, and health experts say the addictive chemical is harmful to developing brains. Recent research published shows some teenagers aren't even aware they are inhaling nicotine when using Juul and similar e-cigarettes.

Proposals to keep e-cigarettes away from teenagers include banning flavored solutions, restricting where they can be sold and raising the purchase age to 21, which some states have done.

Less attention has been paid to Juul's quick, powerful buzz.

Abbey Solomon first began seeing Juul around the house when her son Jack was in 8th grade.

Like many parents, she didn't initially recognize the small, rechargeable device, which resembles a flash drive, as an e-cigarette. But as parents and teachers began sounding the alarm, she started confiscating Juul and its color-coded flavor pods from her son and his friends.

Last year, Jack, 16, became an unlikely spokesman for the anti-vaping movement, appearing in a viral video , "Juulers against Juul" to push for tougher restrictions to protect kids.

In the video, he says teenagers will often leave school to get their Juul fix. "It shouldn't happen," he said. "But kids are very addicted to these e-cigarettes and need this stuff to be satisfied."

Jack himself hasn't been able to quit, his mother says. When she tried to make him stop, "he was moody, he was complaining, he wasn't sleeping," says Solomon, of Scarsdale, New York. "He was miserable because he was going through nicotine withdrawal. He was addicted."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has the power to cap nicotine levels in e-cigarettes, but hasn't proposed any such standard. For cigarettes, there's no limit on nicotine, although the FDA has taken preliminary steps toward reducing levels to help smokers quit. Limiting nicotine in e-cigarettes could have unintended consequences, including making the products less satisfying for smokers trying to switch.

Juul declined interviews for this story, but said in a statement that its product is formulated to "mimic the experience of a cigarette." Its goal is to offer smokers an alternative to tobacco-burning cigarettes, the company said. Under pressure from regulators, Juul voluntarily shut down its Facebook and Instagram accounts and pulled several flavors out of stores last November.

Company critics say Juul's nicotine level may be excessive and should be getting far more scrutiny.

"I think there's a real question of how addictive these products need to be," said Robin Koval, CEO of the Truth Initiative, a nonprofit anti-smoking education group.

Juul sells two formulas for most of its flavor pods. One contains 59 milligrams of nicotine per milliliter of liquid, or roughly three times what can be sold to consumers in Europe, where Juul sells a 20-milligram version of its pods. Juul's lower-nicotine U.S. version contains 35 milligrams of nicotine per milliliter, which still exceeds the European limit.

AP

Various vaping nicotine e-liquids or "juice" are shown in a lab at Portland State University in in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

Xi: China wants to expand sprawling infrastructure project

BEIJING (AP)—President Xi Jinping called for more countries to join China's sprawling infrastructure-building initiative as other leaders expressed support Saturday for a project Washington worries is increasing Beijing's strategic influence.

Xi spoke at a gathering of leaders to celebrate the multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, his signature foreign project. The upbeat tone of the two-day forum, at which Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders praised the initiative, is a setback for the Trump administration, which is trying to discourage other countries from participating.

Xi promised Friday to promote high financial, environmental and other standards in response to complaints about debt and other problems. That has the potential to heighten tensions with Washington by making the initiative more attractive to additional participants.

"We need to encourage the full participation of more countries and companies," the Chinese president said at the event at a government conference center outside Beijing.

Xi tried to dispel complaints Belt and Road does little for developing countries that have borrowed from Beijing to build ports, railways and other facilities. Xi said his government wants to "deliver benefits to all."

Additional agreements worth a total of $64 billion were signed during the forum, Xi said. He gave no details of what those agreements covered or who signed them.

A joint statement issued by leaders at the meeting expressed appreciation for the "important opportunities" created by Belt and Road and said it offers "potential for economic and social development."

Participants included the presidents of the Philippines, Kenya and Egypt, prime ministers of Italy, Greece and Pakistan and other officials from Indonesia, Germany and other countries.

Other governments welcomed the initiative launched in 2013 to increase trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But some are struggling to repay Chinese loans, which has fueled complaints about a possible "debt trap."

Critics also complain too much of the work goes to Chinese state-owned companies and the initiative might lead to corruption and environmental damage.

The United States, Russia, Japan and India worry Beijing is eroding their influence. American officials have warned other governments about potential debt problems and China's possible political motives.

Uber looks to raise up to $9B in initial public offering

NEW YORK (AP)—Ride-hailing giant Uber is aiming to raise $9 billion in its mammoth initial public stock offering that, while smaller than initially expected, still dwarfs most stock market debuts.

The San Francisco-based company expects to be valued at $80.5 billion to $91.5 billion, falling well below prior estimates that rose as high as $120 billion, in a sign that investors may be taking a more cautious approach to ride-hailing after the stock performance of Uber's rival, Lyft.

Even so, Uber is on track for one of the largest IPOs in history. The company plans to sell 180 million shares for between $44 and $50 each.

Lyft went public last month and its stock price fell 21% from its initial offering price of $72, and was selling for about $57 on Friday.

"With Lyft's IPO being down more than 20% in a market that's hitting new highs every day, that's a dynamic that probably has been factored in as well," said Daniel Ives, managing director of equity research at Wedbush Securities.

Uber is part of a wave of technology companies that are going public, and Pinterest and Zoom both saw their stock prices climb substantially after their IPOs this month. Slack and Postmates are also waiting for their turn.

Over the coming weeks Uber is likely to revise those figures as it launches its so-called road show, where it pitches the company and gets feedback from potential investors. It is expected to begin trading on the New York Stock Exchange next month.

Uber also disclosed that PayPal plans to buy $500 million in stock at the IPO price, and that the companies will explore future commercial payment collaborations, including the development of Uber's digital wallet.

Uber gave potential investors a first look at its finances this month, revealing nearly $8 billion in losses over a decade. That mirrors the challenges faced by Lyft.

But Uber also showed impressive growth. Its revenue totaled $11.3 billion in 2018, which was a 42% increase from $7.9 billion in 2017, and far above its $495 million in revenue in 2014.

That rapid growth has continued this year. On a preliminary basis, revenue rose to a range of $3 billion to $3.1 billion during the three months that ended March 31, compared with $2.6 billion a year ago.

However, the company estimated losses of $1 billion to $1.1 billion for the first quarter. Uber chalks them up to operational expenses as the company continues to invest in its core platform, including spending on incentives and promotions. In the first quarter of 2018, Uber posted a one-time profit of $3.7 billion, helped by the sale of its operations in Russia and Southeast Asia, which brought in $3.2 billion, and an unrealized $2 billion gain from Uber's investment in Didi, the transportation network company in China.

Nation

19-year-old kills 1, wounds rabbi and 2 others at synagogue

POWAY, Calif. (AP)—A 19-year-old gunman opened fire inside a synagogue near San Diego as worshippers celebrated the last day of a major Jewish holiday, killing a woman and wounding the rabbi and two others Saturday, authorities said.

President Donald Trump and other elected officials decried what they called an anti-Semitic attack exactly six months since 11 people were killed at a Pittsburgh synagogue in the deadliest assault on Jews in U.S. history.

There were indications an AR-type assault weapon might have malfunctioned after the gunman, identified as John Earnest, fired numerous rounds inside the Chabad of Poway, San Diego County Sheriff William Gore said.

An off-duty Border Patrol agent working as a security guard fired at the shooter as he ran away, missing him but striking his getaway vehicle, San Diego County Sheriff William Gore said.

Shortly after fleeing, Earnest called 911 to report the shooting, San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit said. When an officer reached him on a roadway, "the suspect pulled over, jumped out of his car with his hands up and was immediately taken into custody," Nisleit said.

The sheriff said a girl and two men, including the rabbi, were wounded as the Jewish congregation gathered for Passover, a weeklong commemoration of the deliverance of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. The three were in stable condition at hospitals.

Earnest has no criminal record, but investigators were looking into a claim he made in an online manifesto about setting a fire at a mosque in nearby Escondido last month, Gore said. There was damage but no injuries.

Gore said authorities were reviewing copies of his social media posts and were investigating the attack as a possible hate crime in the city of Poway, just over 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of San Diego.

A person identifying themselves as John Earnest posted an anti-Jewish screed online about an hour before the attack. The poster described himself as a nursing school student and praised the suspects accused of carrying out deadly attacks on mosques in New Zealand last month and at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue Oct. 27.

California State University, San Marcos, confirmed Earnest was a student on the dean's list and said the school was "dismayed and disheartened" that he was suspected in "this despicable act."

There was no known threat after Earnest was arrested, but authorities boosted patrols at places of worship as a precaution, police said.

Minoo Anvari, a member of the synagogue, told media outlets that her husband was inside during the shooting. She said he called to tell her the shooter was shouting and cursing.

She called the shooting "unbelievable" in a peaceful and tight-knit community.

"We are strong; you can't break us," Anvari said.

Donny Phonea, who lives across the street from the synagogue, turned off his power drill and heard someone shout, "Police!" Then he heard three or four shots.

The 38-year-old bank auditor looked over his backyard fence facing the synagogue and saw people hiding behind an electrical box in the parking lot of a neighboring church. At that point, he knew something was "very, very wrong," went inside and closed his doors and garage.

AP

Heavily armed San Diego police officers approach a house thought to be the home of 19 year-old John T. Earnest, who is a suspect in the shooting of several people in a Poway synagogue, on Saturday, April 27, 2019, in San Diego, Calif.

ACROSS THE NATION

5 bodies found in Tennessee, suspect captured after manhunt

WESTMORELAND, Tenn. (AP)—An officer in rural Tennessee shot the suspect in the investigation into the discovery of five bodies in two homes, capping an hours-long manhunt Saturday that ended with his capture. Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokesman Josh DeVine said Michael Cummins, 25, was taken into custody that night about a mile (1.6 kilometers) away from one of the Sumner County crime scenes. Cummins was shot after he emerged from the woods, is believed to have produced multiple weapons and the situation escalated, DeVine said. Cummins is being treated at a local hospital for what's believed to be non-life-threatening injuries, DeVine said. None of the responding officers were injured. TBI's airplane was able to help authorities spot Cummins on the ground in a creek bed, DeVine said. A number of law enforcement agencies had been searching for Cummins, saying he could be armed and dangerous.

Man who tossed daughter off bridge asks for new trial

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man found guilty of first-degree murder for dropping his 5-year-old daughter off a bridge four years ago is asking for a new trial. John Jonchuck was sentenced to life in prison earlier this month, despite arguments from his attorneys that he was legally insane. No one disputed the 29-year-old Jonchuck dropped his daughter Phoebe 62 feet (18 meters) into Tampa Bay in January 2015, and that he had a long history of mental problems. Prosecutors argued that Jonchuck was driven by vengeance and planned to kill his daughter to keep her away from her mother and grandmother. The Tampa Bay Times reports the motion that was filed Friday argues several decisions made by the trial judge were improper or unfair to Jonchuck.

Biologists find trash in belly of stranded baby dolphin

FORT MYERS BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A rare deep-water dolphin stranded on a Florida beach and later euthanized had a stomach full of trash. Biologists said they found two plastic bags and a shredded balloon during a necropsy of the young rough-toothed dolphin after it washed ashore in Fort Myers Beach earlier this week. Animal experts said the rough-toothed dolphin was emaciated and in poor health. Florida Today reports such a young dolphin should have still been with its mother but somehow wound up far from her deep-water home. Biologists and bystanders worked to help the struggling animal, but wildlife official decided to euthanize the dolphin on-site. Scientists are still trying to find a cause of death but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said the finding highlights the need to reduce single-use plastic and to not release balloons into the environment.

'Terrifying': Crane falls on busy Seattle street, killing 4

SEATTLE (AP)—A construction crane fell from a building on Google's new Seattle campus during a storm that brought wind gusts, crashing down onto one of the city's busiest streets and killing four people.

One female and three males had died by the time firefighters had arrived Saturday afternoon, Fire Chief Harold Scoggins said. Two of the dead were ironworkers who had been inside the crane while the other two were people who were inside cars, Fire Department spokesman Lance Garland said.

A 25-year-old mother and her 4-month-old daughter were in a car that was smashed by the crane on its passenger side, and both managed to escape with only minor injuries, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said, calling it a miracle. They and a 28-year-old man were taken to Harborview Medical Center. A fourth person also was injured and treated at the scene.

The crane collapsed near the often-congested intersection of Mercer and Fairview Avenue just north of downtown in the South Lake Union neighborhood shortly before 3:30 p.m., Scoggins said.

The deadly collapse is sure to bring scrutiny about the safety of the dozens of cranes that dot the city's skyscape. With Amazon, Google and other tech companies increasing their hiring in Seattle, the city has more cranes building office towers and apartment buildings than any other in the United States. As of January, there were about 60 construction cranes in Seattle.

Durkan said the city had a good track record with crane safety but that officials would conduct a review. "It's a horrible day in Seattle when something like this happens. But it's a time when we come together because Seattle is a city that rallies around each other," she said.

Officials do not yet know the cause of the collapse. Police and the state Department of Labor and Industries were investigating, which Durkan said could take months.

Daren Konopaski, the business manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302, which represents heavy-equipment operators, told The Seattle Times he understood the crane was being dismantled when high winds moved through the area.

"We don't know, but that's what seems to have happened here," he said. "We are in the process of trying to get information."

Durkan confirmed that people were actively working on top of the building Saturday, but she didn't say whether the crane was being dismantled.

A line of showers moved over Seattle just about the time the crane fell, the National Weather Service said. An observation station on nearby Lake Union showed winds kicked up with gusts of up to 23 mph at 3:28 p.m., just about the time the crane fell.

"It was terrifying," witness Esther Nelson, a biotech researcher who was working in a building nearby, told the Times.

"The wind was blowing really strong," she said, and added that the crane appeared to break in half. "Half of it was flying down sideways on the building," she said. "The other half fell down on the street, crossing both lanes of traffic."

The office building the crane fell from was badly damaged, with several of its windows smashed.

A Google spokesperson said in a statement that the company was saddened to learn of the accident and that they were in communication with Vulcan, the real estate firm that is managing the site and working with authorities.

Harborview spokeswoman Susan Gregg said Saturday night that the mother and baby had been discharged, while the man injured was in satisfactory condition.

Asia

Sri Lanka militants set off bombs during raid, killing 15

AMPARA, Sri Lanka (AP)—Militants linked to Easter suicide bombings opened fire and set off explosives during a raid by Sri Lankan security forces on a house in the country's east, leaving behind a grisly discovery Saturday: 15 bodies, including six children.

The gunbattle that began Friday night and the carnage that followed come amid widespread fear of more attacks as officials hunt for militants with explosives believed to still be at large after the coordinated bombings of churches and luxury hotels that killed more than 250 people last weekend.

Raids and police curfews have shut down areas of eastern Sri Lanka, and Catholic leaders have canceled Sunday Masses indefinitely. Officials also urged Muslims to stay home for prayers in an extraordinary call by the clergy to curtail worship.

The government on Saturday also formally banned two extremist groups purportedly linked to the attacks, allowing officials to confiscate their property, presidential spokesman Dharmasri Ekanayake said.

The U.S. Department of State, citing terror groups plotting more possible attacks, urged Americans to reconsider travel to Sri Lanka and ordered the school-age children of government workers to leave the country. The U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka has previously warned the public to stay away from places of worship over the weekend, a stark alert underlining that authorities believe some attackers remain at large.

The gunfight Friday came after police tipped off soldiers about a suspected safe house near the town of Sammanthurai in Sri Lanka's Ampara District, where authorities said the militants set off three explosions and opened fire.

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said some of the dead likely were militants who blew themselves up in suicide bombings. Earlier, the military said at least one civilian had been killed in the attack.

A girl and a woman survived the explosion at the suspected safe house but were critically injured and being treated at a hospital, Gunasekara said.

Photographs taken by The Associated Press show the charred remains of one child and the body of another wearing a green T-shirt with the words "good boy" written on the back. The bodies of an adult woman and man were found after the explosion with their clothes burned off.

Meanwhile, the military said security forces had recovered explosives, detonators, "suicide kits," military uniforms and Islamic State group flags in the ongoing raids.

Gunasekara said officers acting on information from intelligence officials also found 150 sticks of blasting gelatin and 100,000 small metal balls, as well as a van and clothing suspected of being used by those involved in the Easter attacks. Suicide bomb vests often are packed with such balls to increase the shrapnel in the explosion, making them even deadlier.

Fear of more attacks has led to increased security at churches, shrines, temples and mosques across the multiethnic island nation of 21 million off the southern coast of India.

AP

Sri Lankan police and army officers display bomb making materials recovered from a hideout of militants after Friday's gunbattle in Kalmunai, in eastern Sri Lanka, Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Trump upbeat on potential for US-Japan trade deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump expressed confidence Friday that a bilateral trade deal between the U.S. and Japan can be reached quickly despite ongoing differences over tariffs as he opened talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House.

Abe is the rare world leader who has managed to develop a personal relationship with Trump. They get along so well that Abe and his wife, Akie, joined Trump and his wife, Melania, for a couples' dinner Friday in the White House residence to celebrate the U.S. first lady's 49th birthday. The leaders planned to meet for a quick round of golf Saturday.

But all the friendliness they put on display in the Oval Office didn't mask their differences over trade. Trump complained about Japan's tariffs on U.S. agricultural products while Abe aired his frustrations with U.S. levies on Japanese automobiles. Trump has slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Japan and has held the threat of even steeper auto tariffs over Abe's head.

Still, Trump sounded optimistic that an agreement will be struck.

"Ultimately, we have a chance to make a good and very long-term trade deal with Japan," the president said.

Asked later about the timetable, Trump said: "I think it can go quickly. I think it can go fairly quickly. Maybe by the time I'm over there, maybe we sign it over there. But it's moving along very nicely and we'll see what happens."

Trump plans to travel to Japan in late May with the first lady for a state visit to meet the country's new emperor.

In their talks Friday, the two leaders were also expected to discuss North Korea's nuclear program and efforts by the U.S. and other nations to achieve a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. Trump and Abe met on the heels of Thursday's nuclear talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Trump's second summit with Kim in Hanoi in February ended with no agreement, but Trump said earlier Friday that progress is being made.

"I have a great relationship with Kim Jong Un," Trump told reporters. He said he appreciated help on the issue from Russia and China.

Kim had harsher words for Trump. North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency said Friday that Kim strongly criticized Washington for taking a "unilateral attitude in bad faith" that caused the diplomatic standstill following the Hanoi meeting.

Abe has had more face time and telephone conversations with Trump than any other world leader, said Michael J. Green, senior vice president for Asia and Japan Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Abe was the first foreign leader to personally court Trump after he won the 2016 presidential election, visiting the then-president-elect at his Trump Tower penthouse in New York and bringing a golf club as a gift. They share a love of golf and have teed off together both in Japan and the U.S.

The president said he and Abe would head out very early on Saturday to play a "quick round of golf at a very beautiful place on the Potomac River. I won't name the place, but it's beautiful."

Trump said he asked his wife if she'd like the Abes to join them for her birthday dinner "and she said, 'I can't think of anybody I'd rather have.'" Abe told Trump: "I do look forward to celebrating this special day with you."

Trump also discussed some of the details of his planned visit to Japan, including the possibility of attending a sumo wrestling match.

"I've always found that fascinating" and "something I'll enjoy very much," he said. He said a trophy is being made for him to present to the winner.

The United States and Japan announced in September 2018 that they would open trade negotiations. Talks opened last week.

Sunday Mass canceled across Sri Lanka a week after bombings

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Catholic leaders canceled Sunday Masses indefinitely across Sri Lanka and officials urged Muslims to stay home for Friday prayers in an extraordinary call by the clergy to curtail worship as fear of more attacks plagued the island nation after the deadly suicide bombings on Easter.

Shops were closed, streets were empty and heavy security patrols continued across the country despite police saying the alleged mastermind of the attacks that killed over 250 people had died in one of the suicide blasts.

Those Sri Lankans who did venture out spoke about the fear encompassing daily life at a level unseen since a long civil war ended a decade ago. Many are angry that the government, paralyzed by internal disputes, hadn't acted on intelligence obtained weeks before Easter that warned of the attacks.

On Friday night, Sri Lanka's military said its soldiers in the eastern part of the country engaged in a gunbattle with suspects believed to be linked to the attacks, and police announced a 24-hour curfew until further notice in the Muslim-dominated area where the shooting took place.

Continuing government confusion in its investigation—from drastically lowering the death toll to misidentifying a Brown University student as a militant—only added to the public's worries.

"Everyone is nervous," said Abdullah Mohammed, a 48-year-old Muslim in Colombo. "Not just the Muslims. Buddhists, Christians, Hindus—everybody's nervous."

Officials from the police to the prime minister say militants remain on the loose and have access to explosives. That has led to increased security at shrines, churches, temples and mosques across the multiethnic country of 21 million off the southern coast of India.

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith told journalists that church officials had seen a leaked security document describing Roman Catholic churches and other denominations as a major target. Ranjith, who is the archbishop of Colombo, asked the faithful across Sri Lanka to stay home for their own safety.

"We don't want repetitions," Ranjith said.

World

Hours after mass escape, migrants chant for food, freedom

AP

Migrants shout demanding better conditions or that they be transferred to another center, at an immigration detention center in Tapachula, Chiapas State, Mexico, Friday, April 26, 2019.

TAPACHULA, Mexico (AP)—About 600 mostly Cuban migrants who were part of a mass escape from a southern Mexico immigration detention center a day earlier remained at large Friday evening, immigration authorities said.

Mexico's National Immigration Institute said in a statement that rather than the 1,300 escapees it reported Thursday night, only 645 migrants had actually fled. It said only 35 of those who escaped had returned without explaining why it had lowered its figures.

The center was holding 1,745 people at the time, nearly double its capacity, the statement said.

The escape began with Cuban migrants escaping their holding area into an area reserved for women, who were mostly Honduran. That caused a commotion and migrants gained access to other parts of the detention center before eventually making it to the main entrance. Immigration agents were unarmed and unable to intervene.

Hours after the mass escape, throngs of detained migrants raised their fists in the air Friday and chanted "We want food! We want out!"

It was the largest mass escape from a Mexican immigration center in memory and the latest example of how the government has become overloaded by a flood of Central American, Cuban and Haitian immigrants.

Residents of Tapachula, a city on Mexico's southern border with Guatemala, reported seeing hundreds of migrants running through the streets late Thursday, some only half dressed, some cramming themselves into passing minivans to escape.

Those with family members inside the Siglo XXI detention center said the escape arose from a dispute over food and sleeping space, both of which were in short supply in the overcrowded center. Authorities said Friday the Siglo XXI center was holding 1,745 migrants at the time of the escape. The facility was built to hold fewer than 1,000 people.

Laisel Gómez Cabrera, a Cuban who now lives in Texas, was worried about his wife, Anisleidys Sosa Almeida, who has been held at the center for weeks.

On Friday, Gómez Cabrera stood outside the station—as he has most days since his wife was detained—trying to get information about her. He said there had been a fight at the facility prior to the escape, and it was provoked by overcrowding.

"They made it so they had to fight among themselves for a place to lie down, to get a little bit of food," Gómez Cabrera said.

A distraught Raisa Torres Espinosa was waiting for news of her daughter, Cynthia Barbara, 21, who was being held at the center along with her husband. Both left Cuba recently, traveling through Panama and then overland to Mexico, where they were detained.

Torres Espinosa said her daughter had told her conditions at Siglo XXI, which means "21st century" in Spanish, were "very bad" and had worsened in the last week.

"This week they have put 20 busloads of migrants, all of them, in there," she said, motioning toward the metal gates.

Gómez Cabrera said she suspected authorities may have opened the gates Thursday night to let migrants flee as a way of reducing pressure on the system, knowing that those who left would no longer be allowed to apply for any kind of humanitarian visa, asylum or residence permit in Mexico.

"All the ones who left are going to get put on a red list," Gómez Cabrera said. "If they catch them again, they are going to be subject to automatic deportation."

Buses arrived Thursday and Friday apparently to take women and children out of the overcrowded facility.

But while conditions may improve somewhat, the prospect of deportation drives the Cuban families to despair.

Carlos Labada, another Cuban who lives in the United States, said his father, mother and younger sister are all being held at the center.

WORLD BRIEFS

Venezuelan government denounces regional OAS forum

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Saturday staged a rally to celebrate its split with a key regional forum, the Organization of American States. Supporters of Maduro attended the demonstration in the Venezuelan capital to denounce the 35-member OAS, whose council voted this month to recognize an envoy selected by opposition leader Juan Guaidó. A minority of countries voted against the resolution. In 2017, Maduro started a two-year process to abandon the OAS, but Guaidó this year asked the group to ignore the socialist leader and instead designate Gustavo Tarre as his own envoy. The U.S. and most other OAS member states recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's interim president, saying Maduro wasn't legitimately re-elected last year. Maduro says the OAS is violating Venezuela's sovereignty. Also Saturday, ambassadors appointed by Guaidó to represent him in the region gathered in Colombia to discuss ways to increase diplomatic pressure on Maduro, who retains the support of Venezuela's military leadership and counts Russia and China among his allies. One of Guaidó's envoys, Julio Borges, said they planned to hold a similar event for opposition envoys in Europe in May.

Lead from Notre Dame fire dictates area health precautions

PARIS (AP)—Paris police say areas near Notre Dame Cathedral with elevated lead levels after the fire that ravaged the famous monument will remain closed to the public until they are deemed safe. The fire sent large amounts of lead into the air because hundreds of tons of the metal were used in Notre Dame's frame, as well as the church spire that burned and collapsed. Paris police have advised residents and shopkeepers around Notre Dame to remove any surface dust they see with wet wipes. The city's police force said in a statement Saturday that no cases of lead poisoning have been reported since the April 15 fire but most health risks come from long-term exposure. The statement said precautions will be taken to protect workers when Notre Dame is rebuilt.

Armenian trans woman gets threats after parliament speech

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)—A transgender woman who broke boundaries with a speech in Armenia's parliament says she has received death threats and is avoiding leaving her home in the backlash to her three-minute address. Lilit Martirosian told members of parliament's human rights committee on April 5 that the group she founded, Right Side, had recorded 283 cases of transgender rights violations. "For me, that means that there are 283 criminals in Armenia living next to me and you," Martirosian said during her speech. "And who knows, maybe a 284th will commit a crime tomorrow." Some lawmakers immediately expressed their offense. The head of the human rights committee complained Martirosian disturbed a hearing agenda and disrespected parliament. The next day, hundreds of people protesting outside the parliament building demanded to have the podium Martirosian used fumigated.

Flooding feared in Mozambique after Cyclone Kenneth; 5 dead

PEMBA, Mozambique (AP)—Mozambique's government urged many people to immediately seek higher ground on Saturday in the wake of Cyclone Kenneth, fearing flooding and mudslides in the days ahead as heavy rain lashed the region.

At least five people were killed, the government said. Mozambique's disaster management agency said one person had died in Pemba city and another in hard-hit Macomia district, while residents on Ibo island said two people died there. Details on the fifth death were not immediately available.

Aerial photos showed some communities nearly flattened by the storm. About 3,500 homes in parts of the country's northernmost Cabo Delgado province were partially or fully destroyed, with electricity cut, some roads blocked and at least one key bridge collapsed. Some schools and health centers were damaged. Nearly 700,000 people could be at risk, many left exposed and hungry as waters rise.

"There's a very intense strip of destruction where the wind first made impact in coastal districts," Nicholas Finney, response team leader with the aid group Save the Children, told The Associated Press after visiting Macomia district. The team found people in shock in a region where a cyclone had never been recorded in the modern age.

Terrified children and traumatized parents "face a huge task to start to rebuild," he said.

Rain is forecast over the next several days, and Mozambique's meteorological authority said the storm could potentially move back out to sea and intensify again, Finney added. "It doesn't look good, quite honestly," he said of the risk of flooding.

As water levels rose, Mozambican authorities asked residents of Mecufi and Chiure districts and parts of Macomia and Muidumbe districts to immediately seek higher ground. Some rivers in the region have burst their banks in the past, notably in 2000.

Cyclone Kenneth arrived late Thursday, just six weeks after Cyclone Idai ripped into central Mozambique and killed more than 600 people. This was the first time in recorded history that the southern African nation has been hit by two cyclones in one season, again raising concerns about climate change .

The remnants of Kenneth, which packed the power of a Category 4 hurricane, could dump twice as much rain as Idai did last month, the U.N. World Program has said. Some forecasts warned of as much as 250 millimeters (9 inches) of torrential rain, or about a quarter of the average annual rainfall for the region.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported heavy damage to Cabo Delgado province, with the communities of Macomia, Quissanga and Mocimboa da Praia of highest concern.

Focus

Seeds of hate in Sri Lanka:

Fiery leader, wealthy followers

By FOSTER KLUG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EGOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—An impatient little girl in a pretty dress pulls on the hand of a man, possibly her grandfather, as they cross a brick courtyard outside St. Sebastian's Church on Easter Sunday. Directly in her path a slightly built, bearded man, bent beneath the weight of a large backpack, slows down so he doesn't bump into the girl, his fingers seeming to touch her hair for just an instant as she passes.

And then, CCTV cameras show, they both go about their day, the girl continuing across the courtyard, the man with the pack marching with purpose toward the main church building—a common, almost mundane interaction made chilling only by what happens next.

The man walks into the church packed with worshippers, a ceiling fan whirring above, and, according to authorities, detonates the bomb in his bag, part of a coordinated set of attacks on churches and luxury hotels across Sri Lanka that killed more than 250 people. Officials are now hunting for clues that might explain how a little-known Islamic radical group went from defacing Buddhist statues and posting online screeds to pulling off one of the most stunning and brutal attacks in recent years.

From a copper factory outside Colombo, the capital, where the bombs may have been put together, to a respected spice merchant's luxury compound in the city where his two wealthy, radicalized sons reportedly planned their parts in the bombings, to a hothead mastermind who seems to have sharpened his building hatred with help from the Islamic State group—a picture of a determined local militant cell that suddenly went global is slowly emerging from the immediate aftermath of grief and confusion. The details are from Sri Lankan authorities speaking to The Associated Press and local media, and from video of the attacks.

As the bombers' motivations and backgrounds come into focus, Sri Lanka, which dealt with homegrown terror of a much different sort during a nearly three-decade civil war, is struggling to understand how a sliver of local Muslims broke off from what had been a relatively inclusive form of the religion for years and apparently joined an international militant network whose brand is mass murder on a spectacular scale.

THE SPICE BROTHERS

It doesn't look much like a militant lair: The three-story villa's smooth, well-maintained exterior rises up behind a solid white wall in a quiet, leafy neighborhood, wood-framed glass doors opening up on spacious balconies flanked by pillars, a BMW parked outside.

But it was inside this home that the sons of a wealthy, well-connected—and now arrested—pepper and cinnamon merchant, Mohammad Yusuf Ibrahim, may have planned their deadly parts in the bombings. And it was here that, as the police closed in after the men's alleged suicide attacks, the wife of one of the brothers reportedly blew up herself, her children and several police officers.

At a copper factory that has been linked in local media to the family, conspirators may have packed scraps of metal into the bombs used in the attacks.

Some of the attackers reportedly worked out at a local gym ahead of the attacks. They played soccer. They bought a car in a suburb of Colombo.

The developing portrait of the attackers is both maddeningly incomplete and unsettling. These men appeared to be well-educated—one, for instance, reportedly studied in the United Kingdom and Australia—well-connected, with apparent links in some cases to the nation's business and political elite, and financially stable.

So how could some of Sri Lanka's most well-off citizens fall prey to virulent extremism?

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe offered this not altogether satisfying explanation: "They were too educated and, therefore, they were misled."

THE MASTERMIND

He stands in a long black robe, surrounded by other purported bombers, the only one with his face uncovered by a scarf. Clutching an assault rifle in one hand, he lifts the index finger of the other in an apparent militant salute and pledges allegiance to the Islamic State group, which distributed the video it says shows the attackers it had sponsored.

The man appears to be Mohamed Zahran, who officials say was the attackers' ringleader, and who was only recently confirmed by officials to have died in one of the suicide missions.

Zahran has been affiliated with a group called National Towheed Jamaat, which has been known for several years because of his incendiary online speeches lashing out against all non-Muslims and calling for their elimination. The group has also reportedly vandalized Buddhist statues.

In 2014, a group that called itself the "Peace Loving Moderate Muslims in Sri Lanka" published a newspaper commentary that said National Towheed Jamaat was "fast becoming a cancer" within Sri Lanka's Muslim community and warned that the group was making mosque attendance compulsory, forcing a strict implementation of Islamic law and making women cover their faces and wear long robes.

HE OUTSIDE HELP

Easter Sunday again. Another CCTV camera, another man carrying a too-large backpack. This time at a luxury hotel. He enters the restaurant and pauses, awkwardly, among the tables.

The world has zeroed in on what officials say happens next—the carnage and the misery—but police have been trying to answer another very specific mystery: How did this tiny, little-known Sri Lankan group suddenly orchestrate a large-scale, nearly simultaneous suicide bombing attack against busy churches and hotels across the country?

The right people had to be recruited and trained in bomb-making. Safe houses had to be found, the targets scouted. Someone had to make sure the bombers got where they needed without blowing themselves up at the wrong time or getting stopped by police.

It is the kind of sophisticated operation that strongly points to local extremists being groomed by foreigners.

The choice of targets—Christians and foreigners—also suggests outside assistance. A strictly homegrown Islamic extremist attack would have likely targeted majority Buddhists because of anger over ultranationalist mob attacks on Muslims in past years.

The Islamic State group claimed quick responsibility for the attack. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced later that there was confirmation that the attackers were supported by the group.

Police say the attackers got some of their weapons training overseas, and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena said some 140 people in Sri Lanka have been identified as having links to IS.

"This is another experience for us. Not that we are strangers to terrorism, but this is global terrorism, so we have to ensure that we root this out," Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said.

THE SEEDS OF HATE

The Easter bombings may have seemed sudden, but experts point to a long period of gradual radicalization among some Sri Lankan Muslims.

Muslims in the country were once a "model community" that supported the government in the fight against the Tamil Tiger rebels in the civil war that ended in 2009, terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna said. It was only after the 2001 attacks in the United States and the subsequent U.S. invasion of Iraq, he said, that radical preachers began coming to Sri Lanka, often from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and extremists began more regularly posting online hate.

"This type of Islam started to replace the local and traditional type, which is a very beautiful form of Islam because it accommodated other religions. There had been space for other religious groups to operate, but the type that came from the Middle East was very hard line, more political, more anti-Western," he said.

Now, he said, "The floodgates have been opened."

AP

This undated image posted by the Islamic State group's Aamaq news agency on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, purports to show Mohammed Zahran, a.k.a. Zahran Hashmi, center, the man Sri Lanka says led the Easter attack that killed over 300 people, as well as other attackers. Sri Lankan authorities have blamed the militant Muslim group National Thowfeek Jamaath for the attack. The Islamic State group released the photo Tuesday to assert its claim on the assault.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

FITNESS PRO

How exercise fights stress

By NANCI HELLMICH
USA TODAY

Fitness expert Chris Powell, the transformation specialist on ABC's Extreme Weight Loss, says that when he's stressed out, he trains. "Exercise is one of the most powerful anti-stress and anti-depressant medications.

"Physically, we get an incredible endorphin release to make us feel better, and mentally we earn an amazing sense of accomplishment for the rest of the day," says Powell, who has a degree in exercise science and is the author of the book, Choose More, Lose More for Life.

Powell and other health-savvy celebrities share their ideas for reducing stress, exercising and living an overall healthy life in the magazine USA TODAY The Best Ways to Stress Less, Sleep Better, on newsstands now.

His best insights on:

Living a healthy life. "The best way to live an overall healthy life is to exercise regularly and eat in moderation. Moderation is key—don't let yourself go hungry, or you will likely overeat later. One of my favorite tricks to keep my appetite at bay is to eat one tablespoon of almond butter with a glass of warm water 30 minutes before a meal; you'll feel stuffed before you eat and most likely consume a fraction of the calories you would normally devour."

Weaving exercise into his life. "On the road it's actually pretty easy. I do a lot of body-weight training: push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, squats, etc. In most hotel gyms I have access to dumbbells … and I'll try to map out a local gym wherever I'm staying so I can throw some barbells around."

Sleeping well. "When I sleep, I sleep well. I'm often in a new city every couple of days, and the time zones can throw me off a bit. Whenever I don't get as much sleep as necessary, I do my best to carve out time for a nap.

"I average between 8 and 9 hours every night. I train hard, so I need quite a bit of sleep. It is sometimes easier to sleep on the road, but when I'm home with the family we have a strict early bedtime so I can be up for my 5 a.m. workouts."

Dealing with sleepless nights. "I go through breathing techniques. I often find myself worrying about events in the future—which causes my body to stress about them as if they are actually happening. I focus on my breathing and appreciate the quiet and calm I am experiencing now."

Enjoying food while managing weight. "It's important to remember that food that can help you maintain your weight can taste amazing too. Choose whole, unprocessed foods that you love to eat—everything from fresh fruits, to sweet potatoes, quinoa, and foods with healthy fats like avocados and almonds. You read that right—you can eat healthy fats and manage your weight. It is also important not to deprive yourself. Choose a day every week to reward yourself with whatever foods you may be craving—in moderation, of course."

Losing weight. "Make small, attainable promises that you can keep every day. Unite with other people with similar goals and aspirations. They will be there for accountability and emotional support. Create an environment for success: Clean out your house, car and workplace. Stock up with healthy, tasty foods like lean meats, protein shakes, almonds, fruits, vegetables and whole grains."

QUINN ON NUTRITION

Appropriate vegetarian diets

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

What three actions—if we decided to do them—would go a long way to make us a healthier nation? At a recent health summit, Dr. Ali Kahn, Dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said it pretty much boils down to this basic prescription:

- Stop smoking (or don't start).
- Get 150 minutes of physical activity each week.
- Eat 7 servings of fruits and vegetables every day.

Dr. Kahn then took a show of hands to see how many of us actually eat 7 servings (about 4 to 5 cups) of fruits and vegetables each day. Uhhh….

Some folks do, including many who follow a vegetarian eating style. According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), an estimated 3.3 percent of Americans are vegetarians; they primarily eat a plant-based diet. Some vegetarians include eggs and dairy foods on their menus, some do not. And almost half of vegetarians report being vegan; they avoid all animal foods including eggs, dairy and sometimes even honey (it's an animal food).

What is the nutritional and health impact of eating a vegetarian diet? Here are some facts from the latest position paper on this topic from the AND:

Vegetarian (including vegan) diets are healthful and nutritionally adequate if they are appropriately planned. A soda and french fries is not an appropriately planned vegetarian diet, for example. Rather, a plan that includes vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds is more on target, say nutrition experts.

Most vegetarian diets contain enough protein to meet one's needs, especially when legumes such as beans and soy products are eaten regularly. One exception: Fruitarian diets—those based mostly on fruit—are typically low in protein and other essential nutrients.

Compared to meat eaters, vegetarians tend to have lower stores of iron —a nutrient essential for carrying oxygen to every nook and cranny of our bodies. This may not always be a disadvantage, however. Too much stored iron can be a risk factor for metabolic syndrome, a condition that can lead to diabetes and other chronic diseases. Iron from plant sources is not absorbed as efficiently as the iron in animal foods. Yet recent studies have found that the body can adapt over time to become more efficient at absorbing iron from non-animal foods.

Although many plant-based foods such as spinach and Swiss chard contain calcium, only about 5 percent of this essential mineral is absorbed into the body due to the high oxalate content of these foods. Vegetarians who avoid dairy foods therefore need to be vigilant to consume calcium sources from low oxalate vegetables such as kale, turnip greens, Chinese cabbage and bok choy. Other plant sources of calcium for vegetarians include tofu made with calcium salts, figs, almonds white beans, oranges and tahini (a condiment made from sesame seeds).

Need more expert information on vegetarian diets? Check out the consumer website provided by the Vegetarian Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group at www.vndpg.org.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

Life & Style

400-year-old Bible stolen from US is found in Netherlands

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A 17th century Geneva Bible, one of the hundreds of rare books authorities said were stolen from a Pittsburgh library as part of a 20-year-long theft scheme, is back home.

The Bible, published in 1615, was traced to the American Pilgrim Museum in Leiden, about 45 miles (70 kilometers) from Amsterdam in the Netherlands, said FBI agent Robert Jones.

It was among more than 300 rare books, maps, plate books, atlases and more that were discovered missing from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh last year. A former archivist at the library and a rare book dealer are accused of stealing books valued at more than $8 million.

The Bible "is more than a piece of evidence," Jones said Thursday at a news conference in Pittsburgh. "I am happy to say it has finally made its way back to its rightful owner here in Pittsburgh."

FBI supervisory special agent Shawn Brokos shows the recovered 1615 Breeches Edition Bible during a news conference, Thursday, April 25, 2019, in Pittsburgh. AP

There are several similar Bibles, Jones said afterward. "From a dollar-figure sense, it is not priceless," he said. "From a history perspective, it is priceless."

The Dutch museum had paid $1,200 for the Bible, District Attorney Stephen Zappala Jr. said.

The first edition of the Geneva Bible was published in 1560. This particular edition, published in London four years after the first King James version, is similar to a Bible known to have been brought over by the Pilgrims in 1620, Jones said.

The FBI will hand over the Bible to Allegheny County prosecutors, who will return it to the library, Zappala Jr. said.

After charges were filed last year, Zappala said, the director of the Dutch museum contacted police in The Hague and the Carnegie Library, which in turn contacted the FBI in Pittsburgh.

The FBI in The Hague worked with the museum and then shipped the Bible to FBI offices in Pittsburgh, said FBI agent Shawn Brokos.

Wearing blue latex gloves, she displayed the Bible, carefully opening its weathered pages.

The FBI hopes news of the recovery of this Bible will prompt others to look at their collections for any possible items stolen from the Pittsburgh library. "Some probably are in private collections," Jones said.

Prosecutors in Pittsburgh have so far recovered 18 of the books stolen from the library, Zappala said. They have been found in the U.S. and abroad.

One copy of Isaac Newton's "Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica," a watershed of science valued at $900,000, and John Adams' "A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America," valued at $20,000, are among the items prosecutors have recovered, Zappala's spokesman said.

One of the books not yet recovered is "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" the magnum opus by philosopher Adam Smith, valued at $180,000.

The room at the Carnegie Library where the stolen items were on display remains closed. Zappala said he will discuss with the Carnegie Library on displaying this Bible to the public.

Climate mural emerges after London protests; Is it Banksy?

A road worker passes by an artwork which appears to be by street artist Banksy which has appeared near the former location of the Extinction Rebellion camp in Marble Arch, London, Friday April 26, 2019. AP

LONDON (AP)—Officials in London are trying to determine if a stenciled mural that appeared at a base camp for climate protests was created by the street artist Banksy.

The mural is on a wall at Marble Arch, where the group Extinction Rebellion had an encampment for 10 days until Thursday and disrupted transportation in the British capital with daily, targeted non-violent protests.

The artwork shows a child holding an Extinction Rebellion sign beside the words "From this moment despair ends and tactics begin."

Nickie Aiken, the leader of Westminster Council, a local authority that oversees the area, said "we believe it's genuine and are working to confirm that it is the case."

"This street art has clearly captured the public mood and imagination, and so we're looking to keep it in a public place for people to enjoy," she said.

There was no mention of the work Friday on Banksy's website or Instagram account, where he typically confirms authorship. Banksy's spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

More than 1,100 people were arrested for blocking roads and bridges during more than a week of Extinction Rebellion protests aimed at alerting the public and politicians to the "climate emergency."

Banksy, who has never disclosed his full identity, began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England. He has become one of the world's best-known artists through works tinged with satire and social commentary.

Last year his painting "Girl With Balloon" sold for 1 million pounds ($1.3 million) at a Sotheby's auction—and was immediately partially destroyed by a shredder that the artist had concealed in the frame.

The buyer went ahead with the purchase.

Bond 25 launches in Jamaica, Rami Malek to play villain

NEW YORK (AP) — The 25th James Bond movie and Daniel Craig's fifth and final installment as 007 is heading home to Jamaica.

Craig, Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, and director Cary Fukunaga on Thursday launched the film from the Caribbean island nation where Ian Fleming wrote all of his Bond novels. The still untitled movie will be partly set in Jamaica, which was also a setting in "Dr. No" and "Live and Let Die."

Rami Malek, fresh off his Oscar win for "Bohemian Rhapsody," is joining the cast as the villain. In a videotaped message, Malek said he'll make sure Bond "will not have an easy ride of it" in Bond 25.

Craig has said this will be his final turn in the tuxedo. When the 51-year-old actor first confirmed his return for Bond 25, he said: "I just want to go out on a high note." But Broccoli and Wilson, in an interview by phone from Jamaica, said they aren't ready to contemplate a new 007 yet.

"We're very happy with the Bond we have in Daniel Craig. He's just been phenomenal in the role," said Broccoli. "I really just don't want to even think about if and when we have to replace him. We're excited to have him back and thrilled he decided to come back. We're just going to set about trying to make the best Bond film ever and not think about the future."

The movie finds Bond out of active service and enjoying a tranquil life in Jamaica. That changes when his CIA friend Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright) turns up asking for help. Their mission is to rescue a kidnapped scientist.

Aside from Jamaica, filming locations include Italy, Norway and London, with studio production based at Pinewood Studios outside London. Returning cast members include Lea Seydoux, Ben Whishaw, Ralph Fiennes and Naomie Harris. Production will begin Sunday.

Bond films have usually been announced in Britain but this time, the cast and filmmakers flocked to Fleming's Goldeneye villa in Jamaica for a livestreamed announcement.

Delays and disagreement have made for an especially long break between Bond films. The last one, "Spectre," came out in 2015, when it made more than $880 million worldwide in ticket sales. Part of that was caused by a directing change. Danny Boyle was initially set to helm the film, but he departed last year over creative differences.

Broccoli and Wilson declined to address rumors that the split was over Boyle's reported plans to kill Bond at the end of the film.

Attorneys in Weinstein case buy some extra time before trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein's sexual assault trial, postponed until September, is now poised to end two years after a wave of women's allegations against him sparked the #MeToo movement.

A Manhattan judge announced the delay Friday after a closed-door hearing in which prosecutors sought to broaden their case to include some of those women's accounts.

Weinstein's trial had been scheduled to begin June 3, but both sides indicated they need more time to sort through witness and evidence issues. It is now set for Sept. 9, with jury selection expected to take up to two weeks and testimony lasting about a month.

Weinstein lawyer Jose Baez, who joined the case in January, saw the delay as a boon to a defense keen on discrediting his accusers and showing that any encounters were consensual.

"We had a very good day in court today. We're glad that the trial got back to September," Baez told reporters. "This is going to give us an ample opportunity to dig into the case."

The three-month delay was Weinstein's second win of the day, after Judge James Burke decided to close the courtroom and spare him from having the media and the public hear about the prosecution's plans to bring various accusers into court.

Weinstein is charged with assaulting two women in New York City, but prosecutors want jurors to hear from many of the dozens of other women whose allegations against Weinstein haven't led to criminal charges.

Weinstein, 67, has denied all allegations of wrongdoing. He pleaded not guilty and is free on $1 million bail.

Burke said closing the courtroom for the hearing was "the only means available to avoid the tainting of the jury pool" because the proceeding dealt with material that "is prejudicial to the defendant and is highly inflammatory."

News coverage, he said, would serve no purpose other than to stir negative public sentiment toward Weinstein

Lawyers for news organizations, including The Associated Press, argued that the prosecution and defense arguments didn't meet the high legal standard for banning the media and the public.

Weinstein's case is "a matter of immense and legitimate public interest," and the allegations against him are already widely known, said Robert Balin, a lawyer for the news organizations.

Prosecutors said it was necessary to close the courtroom, both to protect Weinstein's right to a fair trial and to shield the identities of accusers whose names and allegations were expected to come up during the hearing.

'Avengers: Endgame' sets multiple records at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—"Avengers: Endgame" is crushing the competition by setting multiple records at the box office a day after its release.

The Walt Disney Co. says domestically the film opened Friday with a record $156.7 million (including Thursday previews), besting "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ($119 million in 2015, though it played on fewer screens) and "Avengers: Infinity War" ($106 million in 2018).

Outside the U.S., "Avengers: Endgame" broke another record by grossing an estimated $487 million at the end of Friday, surpassing "The Fate of the Furious" aka "Fast & Furious 8" ($443 million in 2017).

The Marvel Comics superhero film also broke the record for the highest opening weekend globally of all time with $644 million at the end of Friday. The previous record holder was "Infinity War" with $641 million.

AP

This image released by Disney shows, from left, Jeremy Renner, Don Cheadle, Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Karen Gillan, the character Rocket, voiced by Bradley Cooper, Paul Rudd and Scarlett Johansson in a scene from "Avengers: Endgame."

'Avengers: Endgame' topples 'Star Wars' preview record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Avengers: Endgame" has gotten off to a mighty start at the box office, earning a record $60 million from Thursday night preview showings in North America, according to the Walt Disney Co.

The previous record holder was "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" which earned $57 million from Thursday previews in 2015, though "Avengers: Endgame" was shown in more theaters.

Internationally, Disney said on Friday that "Avengers: Endgame" has already grossed $305 million in its first two days in theaters with over half of that tally coming from China.

Box office prognosticators are projecting that the film could earn anywhere from $260 million to $300 million domestically, and between $800 million and $1 billion globally when the dust settles and final numbers are reported Monday.

Meow and ME! Taylor Swift debuts cat No. 3 after song reveal

All those Swiftie sleuths got it right: Cat mama Taylor Swift debuted her feline No. 3, a sweet-faced baby boy named Benjamin Button, after his surprise reveal in the music video for her new song "ME!"

The pop star's famous Scottish Folds, Olivia Benson and Meredith Grey, have a brown-eared sibling who snuggled with Swift on Instagram above her comment: "And then there were three ..."

She later shared a snippet of selfie video on Instagram carrying the adorableness in her arms, saying: "I've never personally encountered a cat that preferred to be carried as if they're a human baby."

Fans suspected she might be adding to her cat family after Swift visited a Nashville butterfly mural she commissioned hours before her music video dropped Friday. The artwork featured three cats.

The new whiskered face was featured in the video's story as her on-screen lover, Panic! at the Disco's Brendon Urie, tries to woo her back after a spat — in French — by handing her the four-legged bundle. The pet did the trick. ***(AP)***

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Model in Sao Paulo dies after taking ill on catwalk

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A model participating in Sao Paulo's Fashion Week has died after getting sick and falling on the catwalk. A statement from organizers said Tales Soares took ill Saturday while in a parade of fashion brand Ocksa. A medical team attended to him on the catwalk and Soares was later taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The statement did not provide more details. Daily Folha de S. Paulo reported that Soares tripped on his shoelace and fell. According to the paper, people in the crowd initially thought his fall was part of a performance. A photo in the newspaper showed the model lying face down on the catwalk while paramedics attended to him. The paper reported Soares was 26 years old.

New York police rescue 'GOAT ... and it's not @TomBrady'

NEW YORK (AP) — "There's a new GOAT in town, and it's not @TomBrady..." That's what the New York Police Department tweeted after rescuing a crying pygmy goat that had mysteriously wandered into a Queens backyard this past week. Officers named it Josh and delivered it to a city animal shelter for a meal of hay. Josh will soon go to the Skylands animal sanctuary in New Jersey, where Jon Stewart and his wife, Tracey, sent a bull headed to a slaughterhouse that escaped on a Queens street three years ago. In a video police released Friday, an officer is seen cradling the goat in her arms, saying, "It's OK. ... He's so cute." And no, it's not Brady, whose nickname, GOAT, stands for the "greatest of all time."

Getting real: Former friend of faux heiress has book deal

NEW YORK (AP) — A onetime friend who helped expose the crimes of faux German heiress Anna Sorokin has a book coming out this summer. Gallery Books announced Friday that Rachel DeLoache Williams' "My Friend Anna" is scheduled for July 23. Gallery is calling her memoir "a nail-biting account" of being scammed by Sorokin out of tens of thousands of dollars and reporting her to authorities. On Thursday, Sorokin was convicted in New York for theft of services and grand larceny. Williams, a former Vanity Fair photo editor who wrote a viral article on Sorokin, testified during the trial. Prosecutors say Sorokin, who used the name Anna Delvey, conned friends and financial institutions into believing she was worth tens of millions of dollars and got others to support her extravagant lifestyle.

Report: Idris Elba marries model Sabrina Dhowre in Morocco

LONDON (AP)—British actor Idris Elba has married model Sabrina Dhowre in Morocco.

Images featured by British Vogue on Instagram showed the star of "Luther" sharing an embrace with Dhowre, a former Miss Vancouver. The magazine says the couple exchanged vows Friday at the Ksar Char Bagh hotel in Marrakesh.

The bride wore custom gowns by Vera Wang. For the ceremony, she wore a classic white off shoulder gown and later changed into an embroidered dress with pearls and gemstones. Elba wore a bespoke suit by Ozwald Boateng.

The celebrations were spread over three days, with guests attending a "colors of the Souk" dinner the evening before.

Elba proposed last year by dropping to one knee before a screening of his film "Yardie" at the Rio Cinema in east London.

Woman's sticky fingers make continued friendship awkward

DEAR ABBY: I think a person in my life, "Janine," has kleptomania. I have seen her take things from my house, and I know she steals clothing from stores (as evidenced by the security clips still on them).

A friend witnessed her take boxes of doughnuts from my wedding. When my friend confronted her about it, Janine said that she "deserved" them. She even took my husband's glasses and then, a year later, set them on the kitchen counter—next to her purse. She has other sporadic behaviors as well.

I'm struggling to be understanding about kleptomania, knowing that it's a mental illness. I don't want to lose my personal belongings or my relationships!

We're no longer comfortable having Janine in our home. I'm reluctant to talk to her about it because she can be combative and defensive. Is it socially acceptable to bring up this behavior with our mutual friends, or should we keep our mouths shut?

TESTED IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

DEAR TESTED: If you are sure that Janine has kleptomania, it would be a kindness to caution your mutual friends about it so they can protect their belongings. I would certainly want to know if I were inviting her to MY home.

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing a girl I met in high school and went with for a year. We both went our separate ways for a couple of years because I moved far away with my family. We started college in different states, but got back together over spring break a year ago. This year we got pinned to each other. However, even though we are committed to each other, because we are so far apart, we agreed we would go out on dates and socialize until we are engaged.

After a few months, I found out she had gone home with a co-worker after work when he offered to fix her dinner. Dinner led to wine and more than a few drinks, and then to kissing, fondling, etc. I was extremely hurt when she confessed it to me, and now I'm not sure I can trust her or if there are other things going on. We still plan to get engaged when the time is right, but should I believe she'll be faithful and truthful, or should I find someone else I know I can trust?

LET DOWN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR LET DOWN: Give her props for being honest with you about the kissing and fondling, but before making up your mind, clarify exactly what the "etc." means. You should also make sure you have a clear definition about what "socializing" means. (There is socializing and then there is SOCIALIZING.) If your definitions don't line up, then break up.

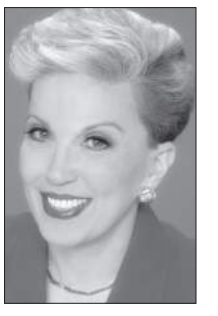
DEAR ABBY: My mother committed to going to my son's first College National Honor Society induction ceremony. My brother's wife's grandmother passed away, and her wake/funeral is the same day. My mother backed out of her commitment to my son and is now going to the wake/funeral. Should I feel angry that she did this? Which event should she commit to?

HURT IN THE EAST

DEAR HURT: Calm down. You stated that this will be your son's "first" induction into the National Honor Society, which implies that there may be more. Your mother will have but one opportunity to pay respects to her in-law, which is why she changed her plans. Accept it.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



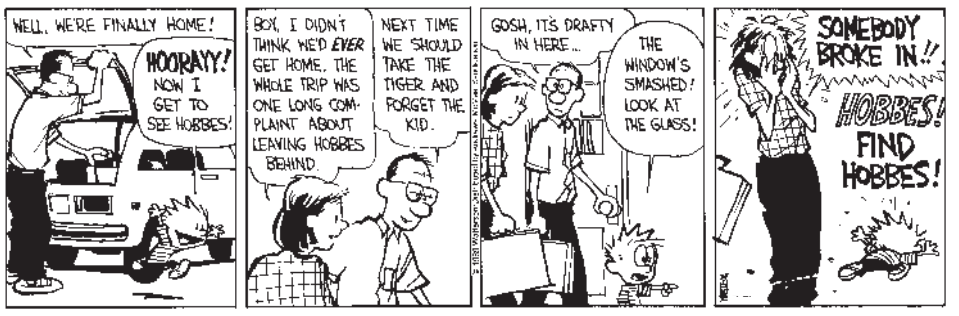
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

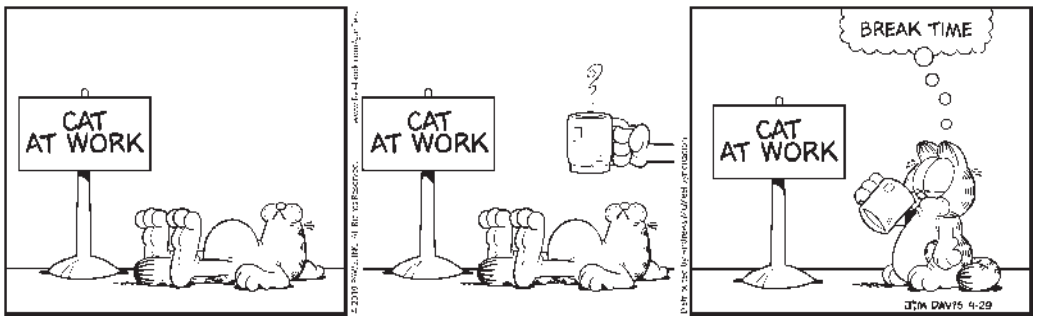
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, WE'RE FINALLY HOME!
HOORAYY! NOW I GET TO SEE HOBBES!
BOY, I DIDN'T THINK WE'D EVER GET HOME. THE WHOLE TRIP WAS ONE LONG COMPLAINT ABOUT LEAVING HOBBES BEHIND.
NEXT TIME WE SHOULD TAKE THE TIGER AND FORGET THE KID.
GOSH, IT'S DRAFTY IN HERE...
THE WINDOW'S SMASHED! LOOK AT THE GLASS!
SOMEBODY BROKE IN!!
HOBBES! FIND HOBBES!

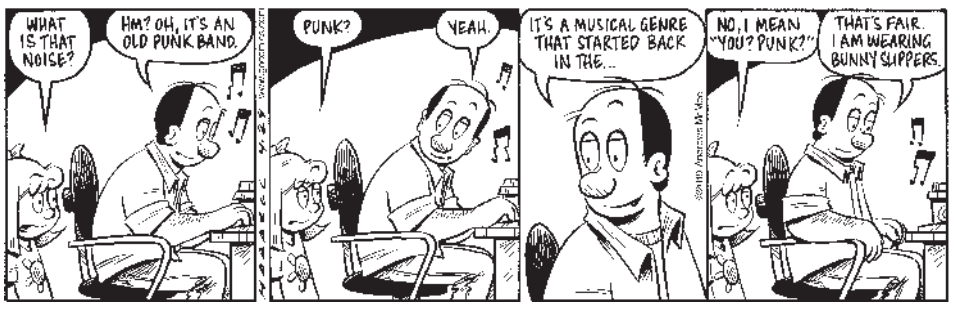
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



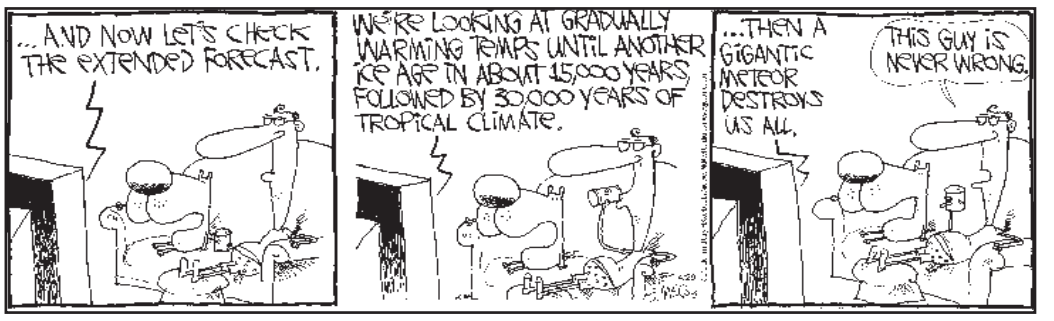
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
HM? OH, IT'S AN OLD PUNK BAND.
PUNK?
YEAH.
IT'S A MUSICAL GENRE THAT STARTED BACK IN THE...
NO, I MEAN "YOU? PUNK?"
THAT'S FAIR. I AM WEARING BUNNY SLIPPERS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


...AND NOW LET'S CHECK THE EXTENDED FORECAST.
WE'RE LOOKING AT GRADUALLY WARMING TEMPS UNTIL ANOTHER ICE AGE IN ABOUT 15,000 YEARS FOLLOWED BY 30,000 YEARS OF TROPICAL CLIMATE.
...THEN A GIGANTIC METEOR DESTROYS US ALL.
THIS GUY IS NEVER WRONG.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Singer Lovett
5 "Ben-Hur" studio
8 Beanies
12 "Madam Secretary" actress
14 Opposite of "sans"
15 Very hungry
16 Gambling city
17 Coq au —
18 Painter Georges
20 Watched surreptitiously
23 Pot covers
24 Any time now
25 Stuffed Italian pasta
28 Boy king
29 Doctrine
30 NYPD alert
32 Gulches
34 Potter's medium
35 New newts
36 Tint
37 Import duty
40 JFK info
41 Portent
42 Enraptured
47 Theater award
48 Eternally
49 Variety
50 Still, in verse
51 Playwright O'Casey

DOWN

1 USPS delivery
2 Pro vote
3 Restroom, for short
4 Football team
5 Earth circler
6 Bearded beast
7 Written messages
8 Tenor Enrico
9 Say it's so
10 Elizabeth of "Jacob's Ladder"
11 Highlander
13 Oklahoma city
19 Redact
20 Retired jet
21 Serve coffee
22 Greek vowel
23 Highway divisions
25 Cheap way to live
26 Chorus syllables
27 Apple tablet
29 Squabble
31 "See ya!"
33 Like marble
34 Great divides
36 Commotion
37 Grabbed
38 Both (Pref.)
39 Check
40 Divisible by two
43 St. crosser
44 Weed whacker
45 Notable time
46 Lair

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	I	S	■	B	L	U	E	■	H	A	S	P
U	F	O	■	E	E	L	Y	■	E	R	I	E
N	I	C	K	N	A	M	E	■	B	E	L	L
■	■	■	R	A	C	K	■	■	I	R	A	T	E
W	R	A	T	■	I	■	M	I	N	E	■	■
H	A	I	E	■	P	I	C	K	W	I	C	K
A	V	■	■	B	A	L	E	S	■	T	A	■
T	I	C	K	E	T	E	D	■	C	A	R	■
■	■	■	V	E	E	S	■	C	U	L	L	S
F	G	R	F	T	■	■	S	A	R	I	■	■
C	O	O	L	■	K	I	C	K	B	A	L	L
H	A	L	L	■	G	L	U	E	■	N	E	E
O	C	E	S	■	B	E	D	S	■	S	O	X

Last Friday's Answer 04-29

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15								■	16			
■	■	■	17			■	18	19				
20	21	22			■	23				■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	■
28			■	29					■	30		31
■	32		33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39				■	40			■	■	■
41				■	42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49				■	50			■	51			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andre Agassi, 49; Uma Thurman, 49; Michelle Pfeiffer, 61; Jerry Seinfeld, 65.

Happy Birthday: Manage your time wisely. Much can be accomplished this year if you use your ingenuity and discipline to get things done. Opportunities are within reach, but so are opportunists waiting to take advantage of you. A hands-on approach to money, health and contractual matters will deter others from taking advantage of you. Stakes are high; do your due diligence. Your numbers are 8, 19, 23, 28, 31, 36, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Communicating, traveling and learning are featured. A challenge will pique your interest and turn into an unforgettable experience. Taking charge of a situation will leave a good impression. Romance is in the stars, and personal improvements can be initiated. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay focused on your goal. It's up to you to bring about positive change and to make adjustment to your life or job that will make you stand out. Don't miss an opportunity because you are too stubborn or slow to react. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep your intentions and your plans a secret until you have everything in place. Walk away from anyone prying into your affairs or trying to entice you to take part in something that is excessive or risky. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do your own thing. Work on a project that encourages you to strive for personal growth and a better lifestyle. Invest your time in relationships and projects that will help you expand your mind as well as your friendships. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Consider what's possible. If you want to make a change, don't include others in the transformation. Work on yourself, your attributes and being the best you can be. Self-improvement will lead to new opportunities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Get involved in events or activities that will enhance your knowledge or target skills that can help you advance. Networking and meeting someone who is cutting-edge will inspire you. A partnership will tempt you, but it may not be practical. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't try to change someone else. Concentrate on yourself and what you can do to make your life better. If someone doesn't want to tag along, continue on your own. Physical and intellectual growth should be priorities. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Make changes for the right reasons. If someone is pressing you to overspend or get involved in something questionable, back away. You'll do best if you work on things that make you happy and relationships that matter to you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your distance from anyone who tends to meddle or spread rumors. Make improvements to your living space, and spend time with someone you love. A promise or plans you make will give you something to look forward to. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Matters concerning institutions, government agencies or medical facilities should be handled carefully. If you act in haste or you don't look at the fine print, it will end up costing you. Make your living space more comfortable. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Physical fitness, a healthier lifestyle and events geared toward helping a cause you believe in should be priorities. New friendships can be established that will encourage you to be the best you can be. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Someone will offer false information or use the power of persuasion to take advantage of you. If you want to make a change, do so for the right reason, not because someone is twisting your arm. When in doubt, walk away. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are driven, adaptable and compassionate. You are responsive and outgoing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5	7		4		1		3	2
				7				
	6		9		8		1	
7		3				5		8
	1			9			7	
6		9				4		1
	2		5		7		6	
				3				
9	3		2		6		5	4

Difficulty Level ★ 4/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	1	9	3	8	4	7	2	6
8	3	7	5	2	6	9	1	4
4	6	2	7	1	9	8	3	5
1	5	4	2	6	7	3	9	8
9	7	8	1	4	3	5	6	2
3	2	6	9	5	8	1	4	7
7	4	5	6	3	1	2	8	9
2	8	3	4	9	5	6	7	1
6	9	1	8	7	2	4	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SIDEBURNS **Solution: 9 letters**

M	W	F	D	N	E	T	X	E	Y	E	B	R	O	W
I	O	L	R	N	I	H	C	L	A	N	G	L	E	H
R	R	U	I	I	S	H	A	D	O	W	N	C	S	I
T	R	F	T	N	Z	T	H	D	I	A	N	P	U	S
E	A	F	S	H	E	Z	I	I	I	S	I	N	F	K
M	N	Y	P	S	I	W	Y	M	P	K	O	E	A	E
P	A	T	T	E	R	N	E	O	E	I	D	P	D	R
L	E	N	G	T	H	H	H	S	S	L	N	A	E	S
E	H	K	R	T	O	C	R	N	R	C	E	H	D	U
S	C	C	O	B	N	E	E	I	A	R	R	S	E	O
G	A	I	W	O	B	M	S	K	A	O	T	D	S	I
R	T	H	T	R	I	A	H	H	C	P	N	O	I	R
O	S	T	A	D	R	A	E	B	A	E	P	V	G	E
O	U	B	E	E	T	A	O	G	L	V	N	A	N	S
M	M	E	A	R	S	T	U	B	B	L	E	L	A	M

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Angle, Barber, Beard, Blend, Bohemian, Chin, Crop, Design, Dimension, Ears, Extend, Eyebrow, Fade, Fluffy, Frizzy, Fuse, Goatee, Groom, Grow, Hair, Length, Line, Male, Middle, Mouth, Mustache, Muttonchops, Narrow, Neck, Oval, Pair, Pattern, Serious, Shadow, Shape, Shave, Spikes, Stubble, Temples, Thick, Timeless, Trend, Trim, Whiskers, Wispy

Last Friday's Answer: Good Times

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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JOB QUALIFICATION:
Six months to one year working experience associated with this occupation. Has knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Has the ability to coordinate two or more limbs, ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions. Able to work flexible hours, holidays and weekend. Motivated and a self-starter yet able to work within a team to accomplish large jobs efficiently. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.

Larry Shane Michael Singa
P.O. Box 504367
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 488-0624
pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter Of The Adoption Of: A.J.I.J. (7/2/2005) and W.I.L. (5/23/2007) Minor Children By: Larry Shane Michael Singa Petitioner(s)

FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0137

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for hearing on 10th day of June, 2019 at 9:00a.m. on the 2nd floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, before the Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 19th day of March, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

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Cardinals take Murray No. 1 overall, trade Rosen

AP
Arizona Cardinals NFL football quarterback Kyler Murray is introduced, Friday, April 26, 2019, at the Cardinals' practice facility in Tempe, Ariz. Murray was the first overall pick in the 2019 NFL Football draft.

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Arizona Cardinals thought they had their quarterback of the future when they moved up five spots to take Josh Rosen at No. 10 of last year's NFL draft.

Now they have a new future.

Arizona selected a quarterback with a first-round pick for the second straight year, nabbing Heisman Trophy winner Kyler Murray at No. 1 overall. The Cardinals then shipped Rosen off to Miami, getting the No. 62 overall pick this year and a fifth-rounder next year in return.

"The more and more we dug in, the more it became crystal clear Kyler Murray was the pick," Cardinals GM Steve Keim said. "I've been doing this 20 years and I've seen guys who can throw like him, guys who can run it like him. I can tell you I've never seen the combination he brings to the table."

The Cardinals expect Murray to thrive in new coach Kliff Kingsbury's pro version of the Air Raid offense and made sure he will have plenty of targets, picking three receivers in the draft.

Murray was the big name, but Arizona addressed some glaring needs with the rest of the draft. The Cardinals used the 33rd overall pick on Washington cornerback Byron Murphy, hoping he can play opposite Pro Bowler Patrick Peterson. Arizona added a group of receivers for Kingsbury to play with: Massachusetts' Andy Isabella, Iowa State's Hakeem Butler, and KeeSean Johnson from Fresno State. Boston College defensive end Zach Allen, selected in the third round, should provide help on the defensive line and Alabama safety Deionte Thompson gives the Cardinals depth in the defensive backfield. Arizona closed out the draft by picking Morgan State OL Josh Miles, Temple DT Michael Dogbe and made UCLA TE Caleb Wilson "Mr. Irrelevant" by selecting him with the draft's final pick.

Picking Murray and trading Rosen was a bold move, but the Cardinals believe the Heisman Trophy winner can be a transformational player.

The Cardinals needed help on the defensive line, cornerback and receiver, so their picks should boost those areas. They also needed offensive line help but waited until the sixth round to draft Georgia center Lamont Gaillard

Murray will be the unquestioned starter heading into next season with Rosen no longer on the roster. His success will depend on whether his speed, athleticism and ability to throw at different angles will be enough to overcome his lack of size (5-foot-10) for an NFL quarterback. Murphy could start as a nickel cornerback or play opposite Peterson if recently signed Robert Alford doesn't get the job.

Giants start rebuilding defense

Meanwhile, after making three picks on the opening day of the NFL draft, New York Giants general manager Dave Gettleman was quick to say how great it is when need and value match.

It ended up being the story of all three days of the draft for the Giants, who are in a serious rebuilding mode after winning eight games over the past two seasons.

Much had to be replaced with the trades of star receiver Odell Beckham Jr and top sacker Olivier Vernon to Cleveland, the loss of Pro Bowl safety Landon Collins to Washington in free agency, and a roster that had holes and a lack of depth.

Gettleman got top-quality players with three first-round picks, but he also put his job on the line taking Duke quarterback Daniel Jones with the No. 6 pick overall.

The Giants aren't going to shove Jones into the starting lineup. He is going to learn for a year or so behind two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, who is 38 years old and entering the final year of an $84 million contract.

However, that's a big sacrifice. The Giants need a quarterback for the future. Their fans also want them to win now, especially after missing the playoffs six of the past seven seasons and finishing 5-11 last season.

The problem is there is no guarantee Jones is going to be a sure thing. He was rated by some as the fourth-best quarterback prospect in the draft. Gettleman and coach Pat Shurmur believe he can be a franchise player.

Thiem upsets Nadal to reach Barcelona Open final

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—For the second week in a row, Rafael Nadal has fallen in the semifinals of a clay-court tournament he has dominated for more than a decade.

Dominic Thiem defeated Nadal 6-4, 6-4 in the Barcelona Open on Saturday, becoming the first player other than Novak Djokovic to defeat the Spaniard on clay four times.

The loss for Nadal came one week after he was beaten by Fabio Fognini in Monte Carlo.

Nadal was seeking to add to his 11 titles at both events.

Now, the 17-time Grand Slam champion will be looking to recover his normally unstoppable form on clay before next month's French Open, which he has also won 11 times.

While Nadal called his loss at Monte Carlo "one of his worst matches on clay," he said Saturday's loss to Thiem was one he could learn from.

"There are losses that help you, and this was one of them," said Nadal, who had been aiming for a fourth consecutive title in Barcelona.

"Considering the way I played, it has been quite a while since I felt this good on clay," he said. "Of my last eight matches this is the first one where I have left that I am playing at the level I need to be at, to be able to play relaxed and with the necessary energy.

"Thiem played a great match and I was in it. I was competitive, and I think that from here on I will be even better."

Thiem will try to win his second title of the year on Sunday in a final against Daniil Medvedev, who upset fourth-seeded Kei Nishikori 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

The fifth-ranked Thiem won his first title of the season by defeating Roger Federer in the Indian Wells final in March. This will be his first final on clay since last year's French Open, where he lost to Nadal.

Thiem lost the Barcelona final to Nadal two years ago, but the Austrian has beaten Nadal on clay in each of the last three seasons.

Only two other players have beaten Nadal on clay three times—Fognini and Gaston Gaudio.

The second-ranked Nadal had never lost in the semifinals or finals in Barcelona. He had won 18 straight here going back to a third-round defeat to Fognini in 2015.

Brady heir? Patriots pick Auburn's Stidham

The New England Patriots picked a quarterback Saturday. What that means remains to be seen.

Near the end of the fourth round of the NFL draft, with the 133rd selection overall, the reigning Super Bowl champions selected Auburn's Jarrett Stidham—who's actually the ninth quarterback Bill Belichick and Co. have taken since Tom Brady quietly arrived with the 199th pick of the 2000 draft.

Normally, a passer coming off the board in Round 4 wouldn't generate much hubbub. But the Patriots' drafting acumen combined with Brady's advancing age (he'll be 42 in August) and fact backup Brian Hoyer is unsigned beyond 2019 makes this a story worth monitoring.

Stidham's college career began at Baylor, but he transferred in the wake of the school's sexual abuse scandal and firing of coach Art Briles after what was also an injury-plagued freshman season. During his two seasons at Auburn, Stidham completed 63.6% of his passes for 5,952 yards with 36 TDs and 11 INTs.

He quietly had a very impressive showing at the scouting combine in February, impressing several observers with his throwing session and posting a not unimpressive 4.81 40 time.

Stidham (6-2, 218 pounds) comes in the mold of a classic drop-back pro passer, fairly accurate and someone who can operate from under center, his mobility a nice bonus. He has a reputation for being a smart guy who generally makes good decisions on the field and throws a nice ball with good touch even if he can't necessarily fire it through a brick wall—quite a few traits that sound reminiscent of a certain six-time Super Bowl champion.

"Tom Brady is obviously a great player and, from what I've heard, a great teammate. So I'm just looking forward to spending some time with him," said Stidham. "Just being able to sit there and soak up everything that he's gone through and pick his brain here and there about different things. ... It's going to be great and I'm really looking forward to it."

Brady, who's currently under contract for one more year himself, has openly expressed a desire to play into his mid-forties. Even though New England's offense became more reliant on the run late last season, he hasn't shown any signs that suggest an immediate dropoff is forthcoming.

But with Stidham presumably coming to Foxborough for at least the next four years, maybe he winds up as the heir apparent that Jimmy Garoppolo, Jacoby Brissett, Matt Cassel and others ultimately were not.

But Stidham doesn't seem to be feeling any of that pressure.

"I'm sure everybody wants to be as good as Tom Brady one day," he said. "I've got to take it one day at a time, and that's what I'm going to do and I'm going to work as absolutely hard as I can to make sure I can do whatever it is to help this organization out."

Yelich ties homer record, as Brewers to Mets

AP

Christian Yelich hits a homer off New York Mets starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, April 27, 2019, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) — After Christian Yelich helped put Milwaukee ahead, Josh Hader prevented the Mets from coming back.

Yelich hit his major league-leading 14th home run, tying the record for most before May 1, and Hader needed just 20 pitches to retire six batters Saturday night and close out the Brewers' 8-6 win over the New York.

Yelich's fourth-inning homer off Noah Syndergaard (1-3) was the first on the road this season for the reigning NL MVP. His 14 homers matched Albert Pujols (2006) and Alex Rodriguez (2007) for the most through the first full month of the season.

"That's pretty cool. Obviously, those guys are pretty good baseball players," Yelich said. "I haven't really been thinking about it too much. Just head down, grinding. To be up there with those guys is definitely an honor."

Yelich finished with three hits, a walk and two RBI, raising his average to .350, and he stole the 100th base of his big league career. He is batting .362 with 39 homers, 101 RBIs and 16 stolen bases in 93 games since last season's All-Star break.

"You enjoy watching players like this," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "I guess when you see a guy do it a lot, you lose some of the surprise."

Hader, who hadn't pitched since allowing a go-ahead homer to the Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger last weekend, entered with two on and none out in the eighth and needed just 11 pitches to strike out Todd Frazier, Wilson Ramos and Jeff McNeil.

Hader struck out Pete Alonso and Robinson Canó on three pitches apiece in the ninth before throwing a first-pitch ball to Michael Conforto. The Mets' cleanup hitter grounded out, preventing Hader from becoming the first pitcher since Ugueth Urbina on April 19, 1998, to strike out six in a two-inning save.

"He kind of calmed the game down there a little bit," Yelich said. "But that's what he does. We weren't really expecting anything different."

Hader has a 3.61 ERA in 34 games since the All-Star break, striking out 83 while walking 15 over 47 1/3 innings.

"This is not like an abnormal Josh outing," Counsell said. "He's done it many times before."

Hader had to close out what once appeared to be an easy win for the Brewers, who raced out to a 6-1 lead after six innings thanks in part to Eric Thames' two-run single in the third and Ben Gamel's homer in the fifth.

Brandon Woodruff (3-1) allowed one run on six hits in five innings, leaving with a 6-1 lead.

New York closed to 6-5 in the seventh when Amed Rosario hit a leadoff homer against Alex Wilson and Alonso hit a three-run homer against Alex Claudio, the rookie's ninth home run. New York could have had a bigger inning but Travis d'Arnaud made the first out when he was thrown out trying to stretch a single into a double.

Yelich singled home a run against Jeurys Familia in the eighth and Yasmani Grandal hit an RBI grounder that boosted the Brewers' lead to 8-5.

New York has lost a season-high three straight and dropped to 13-13 following a 9-4 start. Syndergaard gave up five runs, 10 hits and three walks in five innings on his bobblehead night. His ERA rose from 5.90 to 6.35.

Yankees 6, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Gary Sánchez hit his first career grand slam in a five-run fifth inning for his first hit following nearly two weeks on the injured list, and the New York Yankees beat the Giants for their 10th win in 12 games.

Sánchez had been 0 for 9 with seven strikeouts since returning Wednesday from a strained left calf. His batting average down to .220, he crushed a high sinker from Derek Holland (1-4) that traveled 467 feet deep into the left-field seats for a 6-0 lead.

J.A. Happ (1-2) allowed five hits in seven scoreless innings. Aroldis Chapman struck out Pablo Sandoval for his fifth save.

Rays 2, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Yandy Diaz hit the second pitch from David Price (1-2) over the Green Monster and Mike Zunino added a fourth-inning RBI single off the Monster for the AL East-leading Rays.

Charlie Morton (3-0) gave up two hits in six shutout innings. Five relievers completed a five-hitter, with Emilio Pagán pitching the ninth for his third save.

Mookie Betts hit an eighth-inning homer against Diego Castillo.

Twins 9, Orioles 2

In Minneapolis, Minnesota hit five home runs off Baltimore for the second straight day, including a pair by Max Kepler.

C.J. Cron, Jason Castro and Marwin González also homered for the Twins, who have 21 home runs against the Orioles this year while going 5-0.

Baltimore has given up 69 homers in 28 games, a pace that projects to 399 for the season.

Kepler had four RBIs to help back José Berríos (4-1), who allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings. Paul Fry (0-1) lost in relief of Dan Straily.

Cardinals 6, Reds 3

In St. Louis, Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer and drove in five runs. Ozuna's 10th home run of the season came after the Reds took a 2-0 lead in the

Dakota Hudson (2-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings, and Jordan Hicks pitched a scoreless ninth for his eighth save.

Tyler Mahle (0-3) allowed five runs, seven hits and three walks in five innings.

Blue Jays 7, Athletics 1

In Toronto, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. went 1 for 4 with two strikeouts in his second big league game, Brandon Drury had three hits a day after his winning ninth-inning home run and Toronto Blue Jays improved to 5-0 against Oakland this season. Randal Grichuk and three hits and two RBIs.

Six days after leaving a last start with a broken fingernail, Aaron Sanchez (3-1) gave up an unearned run and two hits in five inning

Brett Anderson (3-2) allowed six runs and 10 hits in 4 1/3 innings, dropping to 0-3 in his career against Toronto.

Astros 4, Indians 3

In Houston, pinch-hitter Tony Kemp had a 10th-inning homer off Adam Cimber (2-2) that traveled just inside the right-field foul pole..

Roberto Osuna (2-0) threw two scoreless innings for the win.

Padres 8, Nationals 3

In Washington, Greg Garcia hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in a six-run 10th inning as San Diego extended its winning streak to five.

Garcia's first RBI this season gave San Diego a 3-2 lead against Wander Suero (1-3), who was charged with four runs.

Luis Perdomo (1-0) struck out the side in the ninth in his second appearance this season.

Phillies 12, Marlins 9

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins, Nick Williams and Andrew McCutchen homered as Philadelphia took a 10-1 lead into the sixth and held on.

Jake Arrieta (4-2) allowed five runs and nine hits in five-plus innings, and Hector Neris struck out pinch-hitter Chad Wallach with two on for his fourth save.

Philadelphia's Jean Segura left after a 90 mph pitch from Trevor Richards hit his helmet in the second inning. Richards (0-4) gave up five runs and six hits in four innings.

Royals 9, Angels 4

In Kansas City, Hunter Dozier had four hits, including a pair of two-run triples, and set a career high with four RBIs. Kelvin Gutierrez drove in two runs in his big league debut.

Scott Barlow (1-0) navigated five outs in relief of Jorge Lopez. Jaime Barria (2-2) was listed as the starter but came in after Cam Bedrosian tossed a scoreless first inning. Barria proceeded to allow seven runs and 10 hits over 1 2/3 innings.

Rockies 9, Braves 5

In Atlanta, Charlie Blackmon hit a go-ahead, two-run double off A.J. Minter (0-3) and Trevor Story followed with a three-run homer during a ninth-inning rally as Colorado won for the 10th time in 12 games. Nolan Arenado hit a second-inning home run for the Rockies.

Bryan Shaw (2-0) allowed one hit in two innings, sending Atlanta to its fifth straight home loss.

Cubs 9, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Yu Darvish (2-3) struck out eight in six innings, allowing two hits and four walks.

David Bote homered twice and drove in five runs, and Anthony Rizzo also connected for the Cubs.

Zack Godley (1-2) gave up five runs and four hits in 2 2/3 innings, his shortest start since August 2016.

Dodgers 3, Pirates 1

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, struck out eight and walked none.

Chris Taylor hit a tying sacrifice fly and Joc Pederson followed with a two-run triple in a three-run seventh off Joe Musgrove (1-2).

Pedro Baez escaped a bases-loaded, no-outs jam in the eighth, and Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth, completing a five-hitter that sent the Pirates to their seventh straight loss.

Rangers 15, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Mike Minor (4-3) struck out a career-high 13 in seven innings.

Elvis Andrus and Rougned Odor hit three-run homers for Texas, which finished with 20 hits. Joey Gallo hit a solo drive for his ninth homer, and Logan Forsythe had with four hits and three RBIs.

Mike Leake (2-3) allowed nine runs—five earned—and 10 hits in five innings.

Jokic, Nuggets hold off Spurs in Game 7

DENVER (AP)— Time was winding down and the San Antonio Spurs couldn't hear their coach screaming for someone to foul over all the noise.

That's one for the Denver crowd.

The Nuggets also are making some noise.

Nikola Jokic had another triple-double, Jamal Murray hit a clutch floater with 36.8 seconds remaining and the Nuggets held off the Spurs 90-86 in Game 7 on Saturday night to advance in the postseason for the first time in a decade.

"I love the grit, the resiliency, the toughness we played with tonight," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "Even late when they made their run ... we never lost our composure."

In a matchup between a Denver team with the youngest playoff roster in the West and the savvy Spurs, the second-seeded Nuggets built a 17-point lead in the third quarter only to see it whittled down to two with 52 seconds remaining.

Jokic finished with 21 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists, with no pass bigger than the one to set up Murray's floater. DeMar DeRozan had a chance to slice into the deficit but was blocked by Torrey Craig. With time running out, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich yelled and yelled for someone to commit a foul, just to prolong the game. The roar was too loud. The Nuggets were able to essentially run out the time and begin their celebration.

"After the game you're thinking, 'Why didn't they foul?'" Craig said.

Easy: It was just too loud.

AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, drives to the lane as San Antonio Spurs center LaMarcus Aldridge defends in the second half of Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Saturday, April 27, 2019, in Denver.

Denver went an NBA-best 34-7 at home in the regular season and rode the energy of the packed house all the way to the end.

"I missed it," LaMarcus Aldridge said of Popovich calling a foul. "That's it."

Since making the Western Conference finals in 2009, the Nuggets have bowed out in the first round on four occasions. This was their first playoff appearance in six seasons.

Denver will host third-seeded Portland in a second-round series that begins Monday.

Murray added 23 points for the Nuggets, who captured a Game 7 for the first time since May 3, 1978, when David Thompson had 37 in a win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Nuggets never trailed Saturday.

"Anxiety is a good word," Malone joked.

Rudy Gay had 21 points for San Antonio, while DeRozan and Bryn Forbes each added 19. The Spurs fell to 3-4 in Games 7s under Popovich.

Jokic turned in another monster game. Jokic showed off his arsenal of shots, even throwing in a sky hook. He played a little more than 43 minutes — just slightly down from the 48 minutes Malone pledged to play him during pregame.

"Bumps and bruises, whatever," Jokic said. "You need to fight them in this moment."

Told his numbers for the series — 162 points, 85 rebounds, 64 assists — Jokic responded:

Saturday night.

Leonard's previous postseason high was 43, with San Antonio against Memphis on April 22, 2017. He matched that by making a pair of free throws with 4:45 remaining, then topped it by draining a jump shot on Toronto's next possession.

Although he appeared focused on reaching the mark, the opposite was actually true.

"I was trying to get out of the game before it got to that point," Leonard said. "We were up 20 points with probably like five minutes left and I was already looking at the bench, trying to get them to take me out of the game."

Leonard matched his career-best scoring total for any game, set Jan. 1 against Utah. He made 16 of 22 shots, going 3 of 6 from 3-point range, and went 10 for 11 at the free throw line.

Raptors coach Nick Nurse said Leonard was "fun to watch."

"A big-time performance at both ends," Nurse said. "I just like the force he's playing with at both ends."

Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said Leonard is "leaps and bounds" ahead of the player he once coached as an assistant with San Antonio.

"The variety of ways that he scored and could get his shot off on some pretty good defensive players and big athletes was incredibly impressive," Brown said.

Leonard received a standing ovation when he checked out with 3:14 to play and the Raptors up 107-88. He's just the second player in Raptors history to eclipse 40 points in a playoff game. The other was Vnce Carter, who scored 50 against Philadelphia in Game 3 of the second round on May 11, 2001.

Raptors 108, 76ers 95

In Toronto, Kawhi Leonard wasn't interested in putting up a career-high point total against the Philadelphia 76ers. Even as history beckoned, Toronto's understated star was hoping he could take a seat on the bench.

Leonard scored a career playoff-high 45 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Pascal Siakam added 29 points and the Raptors beat the 76ers in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series on

Bucks expecting another hard-fought matchup with Celtics

MILWAUKEE (AP)— Much has changed since the Celtics outlasted the Bucks during their seven-game slugfest in the first round of last year's NBA playoffs.

For starters, Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward are both healthy after injuries sidelined them for the entire postseason last year.

Giannis Antetokounmpo is having a career season and is one of the leading contenders for league MVP honors.

And it is East top-seeded Milwaukee and not Boston that will tipoff Sunday's Eastern Conference semifinals matchup with homecourt advantage and as the favorite to advance to the conference finals.

"A lot of things have changed," Antetokounmpo said. "They haven't changed as much. They play great basketball. They defend aggressively. They're going to play with a lot of pace. Obviously, they have Kyrie this year. We're just going to go out there, play hard and try to win games."

And Antetokounmpo has bigger goals than just trying to avenge last year's first-round loss—though the sting of that setback remains with the Bucks.

"It's a different situation, but there's always ego and pride," he said. "You want to win and avenge the loss last year. I don't think the guys who were here last year forgot what we went through. We lost Game 7. Hopefully we have that in our mind, focus on what we've got to do now and try to win this series. And not repeat what we did last year."

Milwaukee has thrived in their first season under coach Mike Budenholzer, posting a league-best 60-22 record during the regular season and sweeping the Detroit Pistons in the first round, winning by an average of 24 points per game.

Rockets eager for another chance versus Warriors

In Oakland, from coach Mike D'Antoni to his stars James Harden and Chris Paul and all the rest of the Rockets, another chance at the champion Golden State Warriors has been on their mind for months.

Golden State and Houston will face off in the playoffs for the fourth time in five years — two of those previous matchups in the Western Conference finals won by the Warriors on the way to championships, in 2015 and last season.

"We haven't come up on the winning side yet. It's another opportunity for us to change that. We know how difficult it's going to be," Harden said Saturday. "... I think everyone wants a shot at the Warriors."

Warriors Splash Brothers Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson were listed as questionable for Sunday's series opener after each sprained his right ankle Friday night against the Clippers.

Thompson might have spoken up about the Rockets rematch a little too soon. Top-seeded Golden State had yet to eliminate Los Angeles in the first round, then the Warriors failed to close it out at home in Game 5 before winning Game 6 on the road Friday.

Yet Thompson knows this is what everybody wants to talk about — and how could you not?

Next up is a potentially epic Western Conference semifinal between the two-time defending champs and their Texas nemesis.

Bring on Harden and Paul once more. With these two leading the way, the Rockets are largely considered the ones with the best shot to derail Golden State's road to a three-peat.

Game 1 is Sunday at Oracle Arena.

"They're going to be around. You're going to have to go through them some way, whether it's in the second round, third round," D'Antoni said.

The Warriors have homecourt advantage this time, while last year Houston grabbed the West's No. 1 seed.

Golden State rallied from a 3-2 deficit to beat the Rockets on the road in Game 7. The Warriors eliminated the Rockets in a five-game first-round series during their 2016 runner-up run, and in five games for the Western Conference crown in '15 on the way to the franchise's first championship in 40 years.

"They're a great team. They've got two Hall of Fame guards in the backcourt and everyone else has carved out a nice roll," Thompson said. "We've had a ton of history with them the last five years in the playoffs and I know they're just itching to get another shot at us, and when two teams meet like that when the stakes are that high it makes for the best basketball in the world."

Tiger chooses not to play at Quail Hollow

NORTH CAROLINA (AP)—Masters champion Tiger Woods is not ready to get back to work.

Woods did not enter the Wells Fargo Championship next week at Quail Hollow, meaning he likely will go an entire month without playing until the PGA Championship at Bethpage Black on May 16-19.

"He's not ready to go next week," said Mark Steinberg, his agent at Excel Sports Management. "The Masters took a lot out of him. He's not hurt, but he is being smart."

This would be only the third time in his career that Woods did not play between majors. He went nine weeks between the Masters and U.S. Open in 2006 when his father died, and eight weeks between the Masters and U.S. Open in 2008 when his left leg was badly injured.

He went a month between the U.S. Open and British Open in 2013.

Woods won the Masters to end 11 years without winning a major, one of his proudest feats considering he had overcome four back surgeries and at times wondered if his career might be over.

In an interview Thursday with GOLFTV, Woods said he hasn't started preparing for his next event and that his fifth green jacket—his 15th major and 81st career PGA Tour victory—had not sunk in.

"I haven't started doing anything," he said. "I've just been laying there. And every now and again, I'll look over there on the couch and there's the jacket. Yeah, I did pull it off."

The only other tournament before the PGA Championship—which moved to May this year for the first time since 1949—is the AT&T Byron Nelson, which is held on links-styled Trinity Forest in Dallas.

The PGA Championship is the only major in which Woods competed the week prior, but that was when it was in August and he played either the Buick Open at Warwick Hills or the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone, both tree-lined courses.

Players had until 5 p.m. Friday to commit to Wells Fargo if they were not at this week's PGA Tour event in New Orleans.

Woods won at Quail Hollow in 2007, though his results have been mixed since then. It is the only PGA Tour event where he has missed the 36-hole cut twice, in 2010 and in 2012. He returned last year and tied for 55th, 14 shots out of the lead.

"He's not going to tee to not compete to win," Steinberg said. "He's not ready mentally or physically, but the physical side is not that he's hurt."

Woods said in the GOLFTV interview that he has started thinking about the PGA Championship—he won the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black—but that he has not started devoting hours to working on his game.

AP

Tiger Woods hits on the 12th hole during the final round for the Masters golf tournament, Sunday, April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

HERAS

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won against every conference program, getting a perfect 3-0 mark. She also plays No. 3 singles for Dixie State and earned a 9-5 record this season.

"I am extremely happy that I was named the Freshman of the Year for the RMAC. We have been working hard off and on season, overcoming many obstacles," Heras said.

The Trailblazers were 11-4 during the 2018-19 campaign for a winning percentage of .733—Dixie State's highest regular-season win percentage in the history of the program.

Heras shared her recent achievement to all her coaches and the people who supported her since she started playing tennis on Saipan.

"I would not have been able to receive this award if not for all my coaches, teammates, friends, and family for their support and for pushing me to become better. It really was a long journey this season, but my team and I are going strong. We are actually going to play our final conference matches this week (last weekend)," said Heras, who received the good news a day before they headed to Colorado for the conference championship.

Beside getting the Freshman Rookie of the Year, Heras, who will represent the CNMI to the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa this summer, was also named to the First Team All-RMAC Doubles with Carlon. The Trailblazers player were joined in the elite group by Colorado Mesa's Emily Beckley and Kristen Kirby, MSU Denver's Alex Pessoa and Steenberg, and MSU Beaverton's Mackenzie Hotan and Tabitha Porter.

The junior Porter was also selected Player of the Year, while Heras' coach, Eric Pelton, bagged the Coach of the Year award.

Meanwhile, once Heras completes her rookie season with Dixie State and wraps up her school work, she will return to Saipan to join the squad's training session in preparation for the Pacific Games that will run from July 7 to 20.

" I am so excited to be part of the national team. It is a great honor to be selected on the team and represent my islands," the top rookie said.

KONQER early bird registration ends tomorrow

Those interested in joining KONQER Saipan "Apocalypse" obstacle course event are encouraged to register before May 1 to get the low early registration fees, according to KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo.

"Currently, registration fees are as low as $25 per person for the event only, but the individual admission fees will increase on May 1," said Endo. "Take advantage of this early bird pricing before it's too late!"

KONQER Saipan "Apocalypse" is set for May 25 at 9am, starting at American Memorial Park.

Individual and team registration forms are available at konqersports.com, and business teams can be coordinated directly by emailing support@konqersports.com. All kids 17 and under are free to join, but they must be registered in advance.

KONQER Saipan is presented by Marianas Visitors Authority and sponsored by Bank of Guam, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, IT&E, American President Lines, Coors Light, Marianas Variety, Roil Soil, Saipan Brewing Company, Tribe Marianas, Paradise Awnings, DR LLC, Vantage Advertising, GoPro, and TriVision Media Group. ***(PR)***

TSUNAMI

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pool," Kimura said.

In the next two days, Litulumar was still not feeling well.

"Though her stamina was getting weak, Shoko showed us her very strong fighting spirit, especially on her 200m freestyle, she swam behind a Marshall Islands swimmer up to 150m before getting the lead in the last 50," Kimura said.

With Litulumar and Xu's notable performance in Palau, Kimura is confident that they will continue to improve and deliver.

"It is important to note that Shoko and Hans are not that tall compared to other swimmers who raced in Palau. Tall swimmers definitely have an advantage. As they grow older and get taller, they will get even better," Kimura said.

"These two swimmers produced amazing results in Palau and serve as an inspiration to their teammates, especially the younger ones."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Shoko Litulumar, center, makes it to the podium after winning the 200m freestyle event in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held in Palau early this month.

NAT'L

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quadrennial event in Apia, Samoa this summer. Lee and Atalig shot identical gross scores of 3-over par 75, but the junior golfer took the first place honors after prevailing in the scorecard tiebreak (hole No. 4). The eventual champion saved par on the par-4, 337-yard deciding hole, while Atalig had a bogey. William Retardo rounded out the Top 3 in the Championship Flight after firing a 4-over 76.

Joe also carded a 4-over par 76 for a six-shot win over Eun Taeck Jung (82) in the Senior Flight. Leonard Ka'ae posted an 83 to complete the Top 3 finish in the division, which had 11 participants.

In the A Flight, Sebastian bested 15 other golfers to clinch first place. The Grace Christian Academy logged a 3-over par 75, beating Tim Goodwin by three strokes. Peter "Dung Tenorio" finished third after registering a 79.

Meanwhile, other first place finishers in the tournament that aimed to raise funds for various non-profit groups in the community, were Carl Hocog, Woo Cheol Choi, and Shiori Onue.

Onue won the Ladies Flight after shooting a 91 and was joined in the podium by Kanae Quinn and Kwon Yong Sook. Choi, on the other hand, ruled the loaded C Flight after recording an 84—two strokes ahead of Keith Hattig and Nick Reyes. Hattig won the tiebreak (scorecard) for second place after making a bogey on hole No. 10 against the double bogey of Reyes.

There was also a deadlock in B Flight with Hocog winning, thanks to his par on hole No. 4. The Department of Public Safety officer and Guam's Victor Salas had similar scores of 80, four shots ahead of third placer Vicente Duenas.

The Top 3 finishers in each flight received in-kind prizes from Hyatt Regency Saipan and other tournament sponsors. Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa led the presentation of prizes to the Top 3 finishers in each flight.

"It was a very successful tournament because of the golfers, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and the hard working Hyatt staff. This is our 23rd year and we will have it for more years because Hyatt wants to continue serving our community," said Nishikawa, adding that they will try to find a way to accommodate more players next year.

"Slots are limited and there are still more players who want to join the tournament, so maybe next year, we will do our best to make it a bigger competition," the Hyatt Regency Saipan official said.

More than 140 golfers joined last Saturday's event with several others still opted to make the trip to the Kagman facility and take their chances on the long waiting list in case those who registered early won't show up.

Cardinals take Murray No. 1 overall, trade Rosen

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Jokic, Nuggets hold off Spurs in Game 7

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Heras earns top rookie honors

DIXIE STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO
The CNMI's Isabel Heras plays for the Dixie State University in the NCAA Division II and won the Freshman of the Year award in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Isabel Heras highlighted her impressive rookie season in the NCAA Division II with an All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year honors.

Heras, who plays for Dixie State University in Utah, was among the major awardees for the 2008-2019 season of the 16-school member RMAC. She was selected for the top rookie award along with Metropolitan State University Denver's Helena Steenberg for her consistent performance and for helping Dixie State advance to the 2019 RMAC Championships.

The 20-year-old is part of Trailblazers' No.1 doubles team (with Yoleno Carlon). Heras finished the regular season with a 9-6 record and

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Nat'l team members stand out in Hyatt golf tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games-bound Edward Lee, Sebastian Camacho, and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho led the winners in the 23rd Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic held last Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Lee ruled the Championship Flight after beating perennial rival J.J. Atalig, who will team up with the former, Sebastian, Joe, and Ryan Kim when they represent the CNMI in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, left, and his staff join the flight winners in the 23rd Hyatt Regency Saipan Charity Golf Classic for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the event last Saturday at Hyatt poolside.

Promising future for 2 young Tsunami Saipan swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kumura believed that the future is bright for Shoko Litulumar and Hanx Xu after their impressive performance in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau early this month.

Litulumar won eight gold medals in the April 4-7 competition, while Xu had the same output, as both of them raced in the 12 and under age group. Litulumar topped the 100m, 200m, and 50m breaststroke 100m and 200m freestyle, 200m backstroke, and 200m individual medley, and was part of the CNMI Team that won the gold medal in the mixed 200m freestyle relay. Xu had three gold medals in the relay (400m and 200m freestyle and 400m medley) and reigned supreme in the 50m, 100, and 200m backstroke, 200m freestyle, and 50m butterfly.

"If Hans participated in more events, he could have won more medals," said Kimura.

Xu had a tough battle with eventual U12 top athlete and teammate Isaiah Aleksenko and Kean Pajarillaga.

"Hans was concentrating on backstroke for a long time (more than 5 years). I hoped to make him the backstroke champion(12 & under) in Micronesia," the Tsunami Saipan coach added.

As for Litulumar, the 12-year-old was equally impressive in the inaugural competition despite having a fever in the opening day of the event.

"Shoko had a high fever after Day 1. But we were so lucky because she didn't need to swim a lot in the morning session. She stayed at the hotel and kept taking a rest in her room. Once her temperature dropped, she left hotel and returned to the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu is flanked by his teammate Kean Pajarillaga, right, and a Palau swimmer during the awards ceremony for the 200m freestyle event in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held in Palau early this month.